"This book remains one of the most tense,
high-stakes super-hero comics on the shelf."
— ComicVine.com

SECRET AVENGERS

ILIAD

SPENCER
BRISSON

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NOW!

GUICE
ROSS

"Secret Avengers *has a unique premise and a strong tone unlike anything else Marvel is currently publishing."* — ComicBookResources.com

S.H.I.E.L.D. TAKES THE FIGHT TO AIM'S DOOR WITH DEADLY REPERCUSSIONS, AND THE SECRET AVENGERS FIND THEMSELVES OUTGUNNED AND TRAPPED IN ENEMY TERRITORY!

As the truth about the events on AIM Island come to light, the fallout from the Secret Avengers' attack continues! But what waits deep inside the chambers of the AIM High Council? And after the smoke clears, an old friend is laid to rest, while a new one joins the fray. Quake takes on Maria Hill, and everything rides on the outcome of their clash! And with the Avengers off-world, what will S.H.I.E.L.D. do when Thanos strikes? It's up to Maria Hill, Nick Fury, Agent Coulson and the Iron Patriot to face certain death and repel the Infinity invasion! But what's the deal with the Secret Avengers' newest member?

Collecting *Secret Avengers (2013) #6-11* — written by Nick Spencer and Ed Brisson, and illustrated by Butch Guice and Luke Ross.

T+

MARVEL

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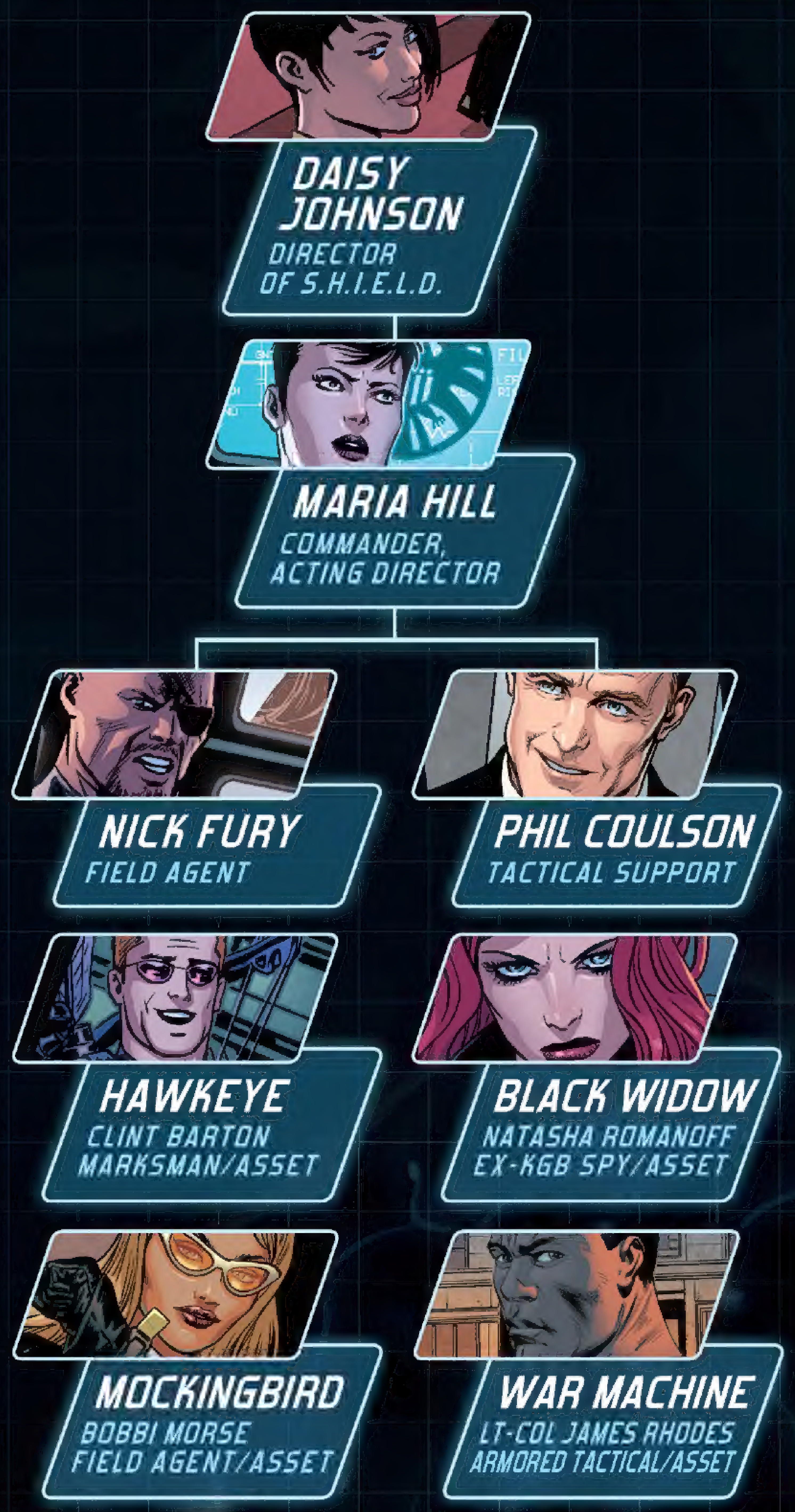
MAGYAR
WILSON

006

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

COLLAPSE



DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR

NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT

PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT

HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET

BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
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MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
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WAR MACHINE
LT-COL JAMES RHODES
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MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE

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S.H.I.E.L.D DIRECTOR DAISY JOHNSON HAS ORDERED AGENTS BLACK WIDOW, HAWKEYE, MOCKINGBIRD, AND NICK FURY TO ASSASSINATE THE A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME, ANDREW FORSON, LABELING THE ATTACK AS A LEGITIMATE S.H.I.E.L.D.- SANCTIONED RETALIATION AGAINST BARBUDA FOR THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES INFLICTED BY A ROGUE HORDE OF IRON PATRIOTS. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS OFF-THE-BOOKS OPERATION, AGENT COULSON HAS BROUGHT HAWKEYE, BLACK WIDOW AND NICK FURY JR. IN FOR DEBRIEFING, AND ACTING DIRECTOR MARIA HILL IS STUNNED THAT THE YOUNG S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR ORDERED AND CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION UNDER HER NOSE. TOGETHER THE AGENTS MUST PIECE TOGETHER THEIR PARTS IN WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY ON A.I.M. ISLAND TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WENT WRONG...BECAUSE THE SCIENTIST SUPREME IS STILL ALIVE.

MISSION 006: *ILIAD*, pt. 1 > > >

COLLAPSE

NICK SPENCER WRITER
BUTCH GUICE PENCILER
BUTCH GUICE & RICK MAGYAR INKERS
MATTHEW WILSON COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION
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DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE

THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE SECRET AVENGERS #5

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TYPICALLY, WITH THIS INITIATIVE, WE SEEK OUT SOME LEVERAGE.
SOMETHING WE CAN OFFER A POTENTIAL ASSET THAT CAN HELP SPEED ALONG THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS.
I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT HERE.
I KNOW FROM AFGHANISTAN-- EVERY TIME WE CALLED, YOU ANSWERED.
SO I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
SIR, WHAT THIS PROGRAM ASKS OF YOU GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT'S REASONABLE, OR RIGHT. SERVING HERE WILL COME AT GREAT PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SACRIFICE.
BUT YOU ARE UNIQUELY WELL-QUALIFIED FOR THE MISSION AT HAND, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU DON'T SAY YES--
PEOPLE WILL DIE.

CHEESE, COME ON--THIS IS WHAT I DO.
JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU NEED ME.
MANHATTAN.
RIGHT THIS WAY, COLONEL RHODES.
MARVEL
SO, I'M GUESSING THIS IS BAD.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

UNSANCTIONED NUCLEAR FACILITY.
SIN-CONG.
PRE - MISSION 1021AF [UA].
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
BLANG
TARGET ACQUIRED.
KRAK
KPOW
BLAM
RETALIATORY RESPONSE INITIATED.

TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.
TARGET ELIMINATED.

I NEED A DRINK.
YES, MA'AM.
YOU KNOW, I'M SURE THERE'S A TYPE OF PERSON I HATE MORE THAN REPORTERS, BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO THEY ARE--
YES, MA'AM. BUT BEFORE YOU GO ANY FURTHER-- THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO MEET YOU--
STUDIO B
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PRE - MISSION 1021AF [UA].
RIGHT. NOW I REMEMBER-- POLITICIANS.
YES, MA'AM.
MARIA HILL! WHAT A PLEASURE!
MISTER--
DALTON. CHARLES DALTON. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET ONCE BEFORE, WHEN I WAS WITH MI13--
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR NOT REMEMBERING YOU, THEN. QUITE THE TURNOVER RATE OVER ON YOUR SIDE OF THE POND.
AH, HEH--YES. YES, I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE. FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS WE'LL HAVE A MUCH BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER NOW--
SINCE I'VE JUST BEEN APPOINTED AS S.H.I.E.L.D.'S INTERIM LIAISON FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

INTERIM...? MY GOD, IS RALSTON'S BODY EVEN COLD YET?
AND YET WE'RE SPEAKING ALREADY.
MM, YES. AN UNSPEAKABLE TRAGEDY, THAT.
WELL, YOU SEE, GIVEN THE RATHER TENSE MOMENT WE FIND OURSELVES IN NOW, WE FELT IT BEST TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY. AS A SIGN OF STRENGTH AND RESOLVE, EVEN.
HM. THEN BEST OF LUCK TO YOU, MR. DALTON. I'M SURE DIRECTOR JOHNSON WILL ENJOY COUNTLESS HOURS OF ALLAYING ALL YOUR CONCERNS AND HEARING OUT YOUR MANY, MANY REQUESTS.
ER--WELL, YES--YOU SEE, THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION--THROUGH A SERIES OF VERY QUIET CONVERSATIONS--THAT YOU MAY, IN FACT, SHARE MANY OF THE SAME CONCERNS ABOUT S.H.I.E.L.D.'S CURRENT LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AS I--AND OTHERS IN THE COUNCIL--DO.
YOU ARE STANDING ENTIRELY TOO CLOSE RIGHT NOW.
SENATOR RALSTON WAS A GREAT MAN--A GREAT, GREAT MAN. BUT HIS ALLEGIANCE TO THIS GIRL, JOHNSON--IT MAY VERY WELL HAVE COST HIM HIS LIFE.
AND HERE I THOUGHT A.I.M. KILLED HIM.
JUST PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM SINCERE IN MY INTEREST IN YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE, AND I PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON DISCRETION. I CAN BE AN ALLY TO YOU, DIRECTOR HILL--AH, I APOLOGIZE--
--*ACTING* DIRECTOR HILL.

SO THAT GUY WAS CREEPY, RIGHT?
YES, MA'AM--
WHO DOES THAT?
I COULDN'T SAY, MA'AM, BUT--
STU
THIS JUST CAME IN FOR YOU. FROM THE WHISTLEBLOWER ACCOUNT.
WHAT? LET ME SEE--
GET ME A PLANE.

BARBUDA, a.k.a. A.I.M. ISLAND.
CONTROL, THIS IS MOCKINGBIRD-- I'M AT THE CONTACT POINT.
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
ROGER THAT, MOCKINGBIRD. ANY SIGN OF THE ASSET?
NONE. BUT THEN COME ON-- WHO EXPECTED THAT GUY TO RESPECT THE SCHEDULE?
UNDERSTOOD. SIT TIGHT, THEN--
I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY.
HEADS UP--
THUNK

PROBABLY A GOOD TIME TO FINISH YOUR CALL.
TASKMASTER, DAMN IT--WHAT WAS THAT?
SORRY, DARLIN'--
A.I.M. ISLAND'S NOT MUCH OF A TOURIST DESTINATION THESE DAYS.
CONTROL--PRETTY SURE SOMEONE DIDN'T GET THE MEMO HERE...

ILIAD PSY-OPS DEPARTMENT.
ELLIS! WHAT THE--
@#$*! IT! I'M TRYING!
HE'S NOT--LOOK, I TOLD HILL THIS WOULDN'T WORK--
DID YOU TELL ME?
I CAN BARELY KEEP THE TWO OF YOU STRAIGHT, IF I'M BEING HONEST--
ELLIS-- AGENT LOVE-- START AT THE BEGINNING.
FINE. THIS BLOKE--TASKMASTER--HIS HEAD'S ALREADY GOOD AND @#$!. THE HIPPOCAMPUS--HIS MEMORY FUNCTION--WHATEVER WE DID TO HIM IN THE OLD DAYS, IT'S SHORTED OUT NOW.
WHICH MEANS--
MEANS I CAN KEEP SENDING HIM DATA, BUT I CAN'T LINK IT UP WITH THE MEMORY TRACK I NEED, SEEING AS IT ISN'T WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
THEN KEEP LOOKING.
AH, SURE, SURE, WHY NOT? IT'S JUST A HUMAN BRAIN, SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND, YEAH?
ELLIS--YOU GET WHAT TASKMASTER IS THERE FOR, RIGHT? WE INSTALLED HIM AT A.I.M. TO BUILD THEM AN ARMY--AN ARMY WE COULD USE AGAINST THEM WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT.
NOW, IF WE CAN'T REACH HIM, WHAT DID WE DO?
BUILT A.I.M. AN ARMY?
SO LET'S KEEP LOOKING.

CHOK
CHUK
KWAK
COME ON, THEN...

KRACK
GOT 'IM!
REVERIE
IT'S ME-- IT'S ME--I REMEMBER, DAMMIT--
DIDN'T TELL YA TO STOP, DID I?
UGH...

S.H.I.E.L.D. RESEARCH STATION *TAGES.*
THE IRON PATRIOTS? WHO THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA?
I BELIEVE THEY'RE CALLED BUREAUCRATS.
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT FOR THEM.
SO YOU'VE GOT A FEW HUNDRED SENTIENT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ON THE LOOSE, AND YOU GET ALL YOUR BIG BRAINS TOGETHER TO FIX IT--AND THE BEST THEY COME UP WITH IS TELLING YOU TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH THEM?
NO...
THEY SAID *YOU* SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH THEM.
THIS IS THE INTERFACE WE'LL USE. ONCE WE'RE HACKED INTO THE A.I.M. NETWORK, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INTERACT WITH THEM DIRECTLY VIA HOLOGRAPHIC COMMS.
AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL THEM?
I'D START WITH "PLEASE STOP BLOWING THINGS UP."
HELPFUL.
READY WHEN YOU ALL ARE, THEN.

A.I.M. COMMUNICATION ARRAY.
SPLASH!
CHOK

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 9
CONTROL--SITE EXPROPRIATED. REPEAT, WE ARE IN, COMMS HUB ACQUIRED, DIRECT LINK-UP ENGAGING--
I'M PATCHING IT OVER TO OUR PAL RHODEY NOW...

WHOA.
INVASIVE SUBJECT. IDENTIFYING...
UHH--MY NAME'S--
IDENTIFIED. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES RHODES, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.
HE IS THE PILOT.
SO--YOU RECOGNIZE ME, THEN?
YOU ARE THE FIRST PILOT. THERE WAS THE MAKER, AND THEN YOU.
I'M GUESSING YOU MEAN TONY--
THE MAKER.
THEN YOU. YOU HAVE LED US IN MANY GREAT BATTLES. WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE YOU.
SERVE? LED?
OKAY, WELL, THIS IS UNEXPECTED--BUT GOOD...LET'S TRY THIS THEN...

WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE, SOLDIER?!
SIR?
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE MADE A DAMN MESS ALL OVER MY MAP, MAGGOT!
MAGGOT?
WE ARE MAKING YOU SAFER. WE ARE PROTECTING--
SAFER?! SON, YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD!
IN MY MARINES, WE FIGHT SMART! IN MY MARINES, WE DON'T GO AROUND PICKING DUMB FIGHTS, HELPING OUR ENEMY RECRUIT! WE FOCUS ON THE OBJECTIVE, NOT JUST PILING UP BODIES LIKE PUNKS!
BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THAT, NOW WOULD YOU?
YEAH, THIS IS ONE SORRY REGIMENT TO MY EYES. DON'T SEE HOW I CAN TEACH A BUNCH OF TINHEADS LIKE THIS HOW TO BE REAL MILITARY...
PROBABLY BEST I JUST SHOW YOU, RIGHT?

SIR! WE'VE GOT INCOMING--
LET IT THROUGH!
THEY'RE HERE FOR ME.
THAT'S IT--
TAKE ME UP, SOLDIER.
MUCH BETTER.

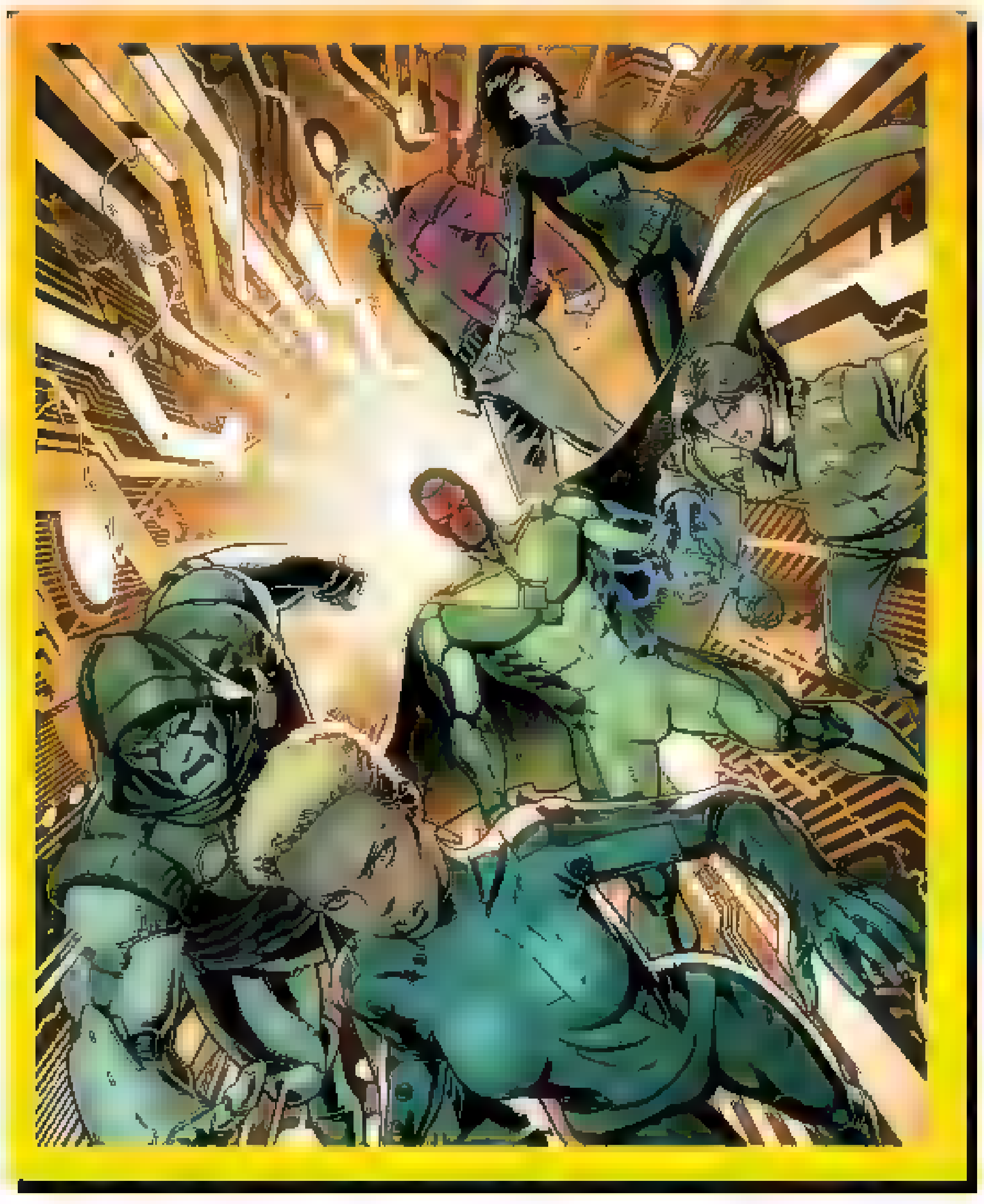
NOW LET'S GET TO IT, MEN.

--I'M SAYING IT'S ONE HELL OF A COINCIDENCE.
MARIA, I ASSURE YOU-- THIS IS AS MUCH A SURPRISE TO ME AS IT WAS TO YOU. FRANKLY, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT--
AN ILLEGAL, UNSANCTIONED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN LEADER OF A U.N. MEMBER STATE? IT BEGGARS BELIEF--
NOT IF YOU KNOW DAISY, IT DOESN'T. YOU WANT THE NICK FURY PLAYBOOK, YOU BETTER BE READY FOR SOME NO-HUDDLE.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
OF COURSE YOU DON'T. EITHER WAY, I'VE CHECKED AND CONFIRMED. THIS IS HAPPENING. SHE HAS BOOTS ON THE GROUND ON A.I.M. ISLAND.
WE'RE PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN, IS WHAT I'M SAYING. I NEED TO KNOW I HAVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S BACKING HERE--
AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IS WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE CASE.
ACTIVE>>>
GOOD--
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT REMOVING THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., AFTER ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The Age of Ultron is over--now is the Age of A.I.! The Singularity has happened, and artificial intelligences have reached the point where they can reproduce and improve themselves without the need for human beings! Somebody's going to have to be the interface between this new society and the whole of mankind! That's where the Vision, Victor Mancha of the Runaways, and Hank Pym come in! Together with S.H.I.E.L.D. specialist Monica Chang and an emancipated Doombot, they're going to patrol the border between man and machine! Sam Humphries and Andre Araujo bring the batteries in **AVENGERS A.I. #1**, the start of an all-new monthly series! (Also available digitally on the Marvel App if you wanna experience the book in true A.I. style!)



Hello, Earth's Mightiest!

About time you had a (SMASHING!) science superheroine! Izzy Kane makes us aspiring (high school) science nerds look cool.

Exospecs on,
Janna S.
Manila, Philippines

Dear Marvel,

I want to start by saying I am an enormous Marvel fan. There's not an entertainment company out there that has produced more comics and products that I've loved more than Marvel. It has always seemed to be the very essence of what fun and adventurous escapism should be to me.

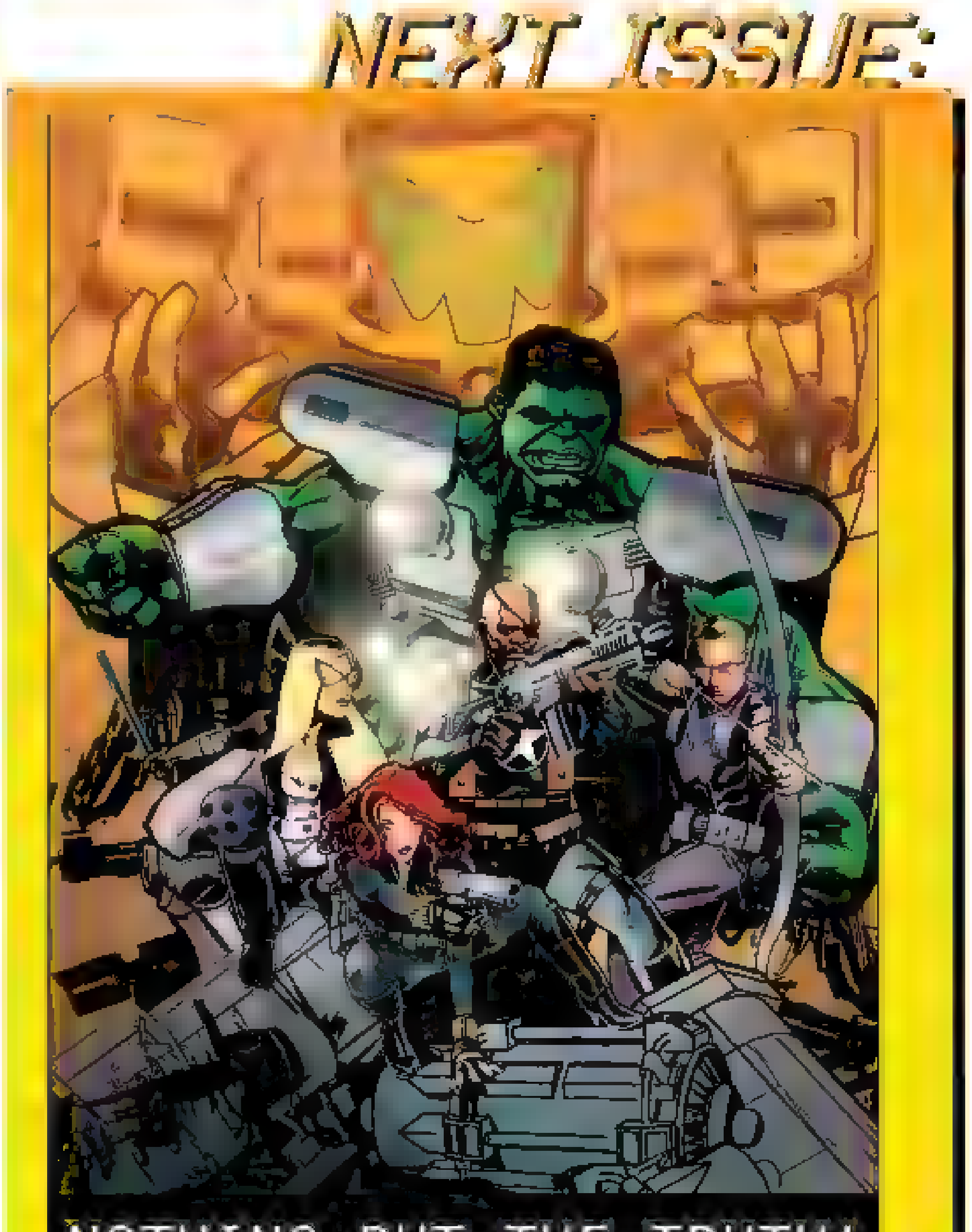
*These days, I don't recognize Marvel as the fun and amazing universe for everyone. What I'm seeing more and more are stories fit for cynical grown-ups with a need to feel that comics are "legitimate" so they don't feel nerdy reading "kid's stuff". I picked up **UNCANNY AVENGERS #3** today and it really was the last straw for me. The art was flawless and beautiful. The story was interesting. But I am sick to death of the adult language in Marvel books. On the back page, you featured fan art from a kid who loved the Avengers. It is so cool that he felt inspired to make art by comic books. However, in this book that kids read, we have super heroes cursing and a crazed mob screaming, "Kill the sons of bitches!" This is totally inappropriate and strikes me as simply trying way, way too hard to be edgy and "hardcore". It doesn't come off as tough and edgy, it comes off as low class and foul. Marvel survived (and thrived) for so many decades under the vilified Comics Code Authority and still managed to consistently produce top-notch, quality, fun comics that could be read by anyone. Doing away with the Authority could have, and has on occasion, meant producing stories of meaningful topics previously off-limits. Instead, it seems the pinnacle of not being held accountable means saying "bitch" like a naughty junior high kid. Believe me, I'm no prude. I cuss like a sailor far too often, but I've never once missed seeing the same in a Marvel comic. I also realize that not everybody has the same level of comfort with these inclusions, so it confuses me that it would be included seeing as how it would alienate members of the audience. And I don't believe it adds anything to the story or the level of drama or impact in the slightest, knowing that less adult words can be substituted without sacrificing the feeling of immediacy. Yes, I know in the real world people curse, but in this world there are people lifting tanks over their heads, so gritty realism is a strange concern.*

For my entire life, Marvel comics have been a family affair. Some of the best memories in my life are lying on the living room floor thumbing through comics with my Dad while waiting for Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends to start. I would love to continue that tradition with fresh new work, but I don't feel comfortable sitting down and reading with my kids out of modern Marvel comics. I feel driven to simply commit to collecting work from the past. Which isn't all that bad, because Marvel did always produce the most amazing comic books in the world!

Till we meet again,
Chase Bowman

Thanks for your letter, Chase! First off, let me say that I think it's great both that you want to share your love of Marvel with your kids, and that you scrutinize their entertainment before allowing them to enjoy it. And I'm sorry that you feel that some of what we're doing goes beyond the bounds of what you're comfortable with. What I can tell you is that we strive to be both contemporary and responsible in what we say and do and in how we say and do it. And you're right, that's not always going to be to everybody's tastes. Even during the Comics Code days, there were people who objected to some of the elements in our stories. At the end of the day, it's absolutely your responsibility to determine what is and isn't right for you and your kids, just as it's our responsibility to produce the best, most relevant, most exciting stories that we're able to. And hopefully, we will meet again!

NEXT ISSUE:



NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #15 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! ALIEN REFUGEES CRASH TO EARTH!
AVENGERS #16 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! THE AVENGERS BATTLE TO QUIET THE MAD EARTH!
AVENGERS ARENA #12 ☐
THE SHOCKING FINALE OF "GAME ON!"
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #17 ☐
THE ENEMY WITHIN! THE MAGNITRON'S GRAND DESIGN IS UNCOVERED!
CAPTAIN MARVEL #14 ☐
THE ENEMY WITHIN CONCLUSION! AND A DRAMATIC CHANGE FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!
NEW AVENGERS #8 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! BLACK BOLT'S SECRETS THREATEN TO TEAR THE INHUMANS APART!
SECRET AVENGERS #6 ☐
TRAPPED AND OUTGUNNED IN ENEMY TERRITORY!
SECRET AVENGERS #7 ☐
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON A.I.M. ISLAND? THE TRUTH REVEALED!
UNCANNY AVENGERS #10 ☐
THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF DEATH ARE UNLEASHED!
YOUNG AVENGERS #7 ☐
A NEW MEMBER! AND THE KREE KILL KREW!
YOUNG AVENGERS #8 ☐
A RACE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE! AND A SHOCK FOR YOUNG LOKI!
AVENGERS A.I. #1 ☐
FROM THE WRECKAGE OF AGE OF ULTRON, A NEW TEAM RISES TO FACE A NEW MENACE!
A + X #10 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW AND FANTOMEX! THE SCARLET WITCH AND DOMINO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #16 ☐

WHAT IF AVX #1-4 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

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SECRET AVENGERS

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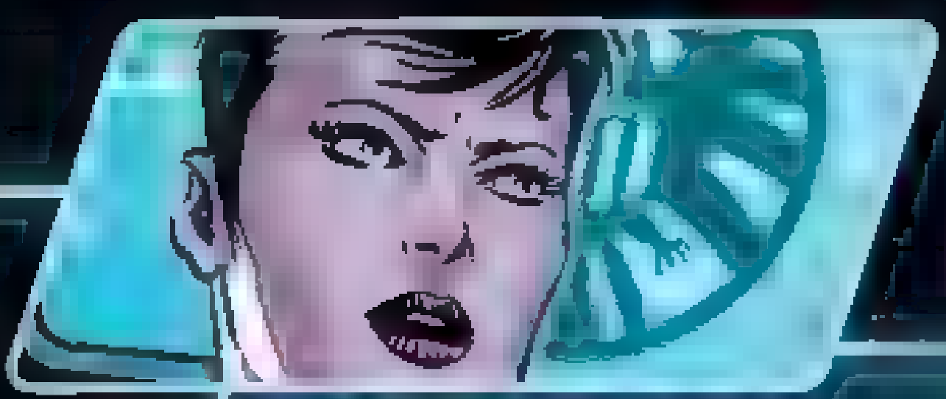
COLLAPSE ▾

DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.



MARIA HILL
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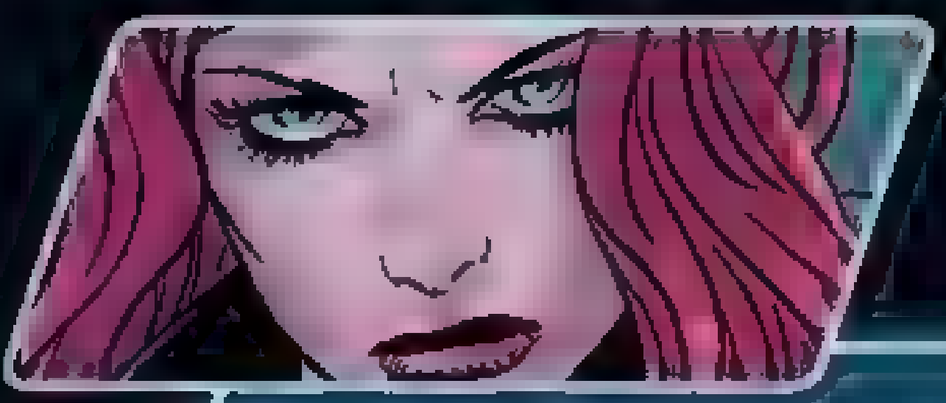
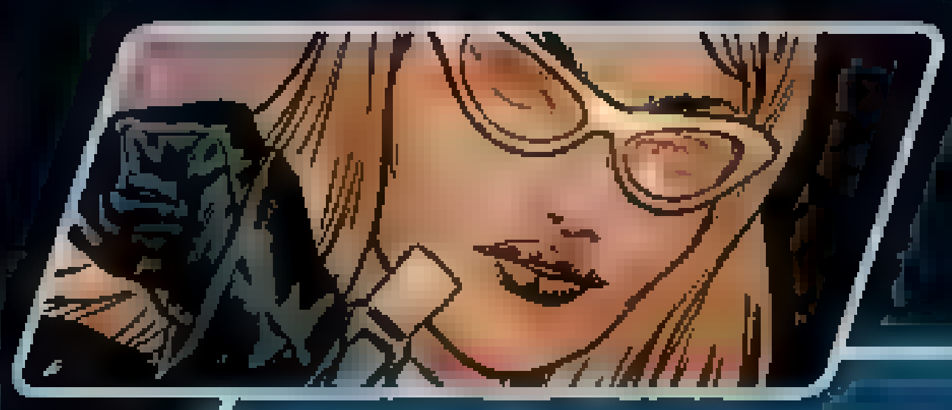


BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET



MOCKINGBIRD
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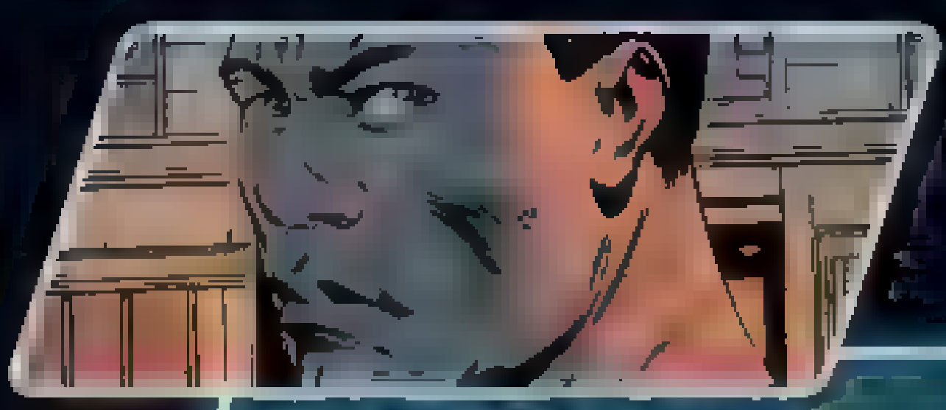
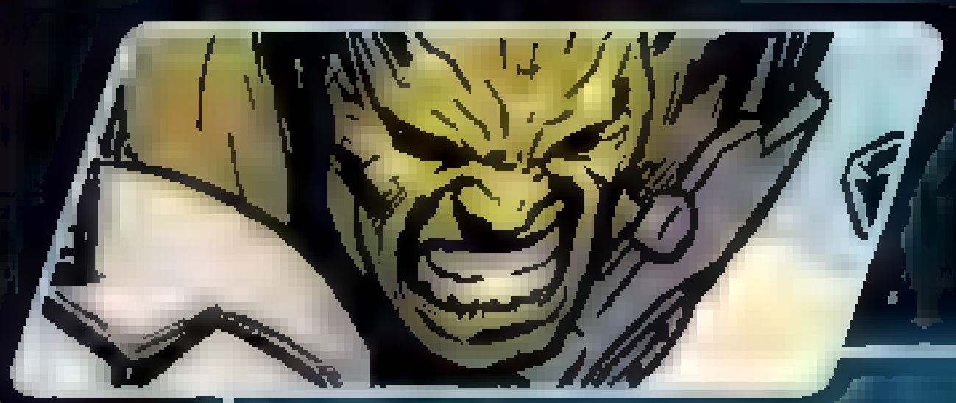


IRON PATRIOT
LT. COL. JAMES RHODES
ARMORED TACTICAL/ASSET



HULK
BRUCE BANNER
HEAVY ORDNANCE/ASSET

TASKMASTER
TONY MASTERS
DOUBLE AGENT/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

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RECENTLY, S.H.I.E.L.D. CUT A DEAL WITH THE MERCENARY TASKMASTER, WHO WAS THEN SENT INTO BARBUDA UNDERCOVER TO BUILD A.I.M. (A FORMER TERRORIST ORGANIZATION CUM LEGITIMATE NATION) AN ARMY THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. COULD EVENTUALLY USE AGAINST THEM.

ACTING DIRECTOR MARIA HILL DISCOVERED THAT FOLLOWING THE VIOLENT DEATH OF SENATOR "REBEL" RALSTON BY A.I.M., CURRENT S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR DAISY JOHNSON ORDERED AN UNSANCTIONED ASSASSINATION OF THE A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME. AFTER UNCOVERING DIRECTOR JOHNSON'S ACTIONS AND REALIZING THE ENORMOUS GEOPOLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS, HILL HAD TO MAKE A TERRIBLE CHOICE: TAKE DOWN THE S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR.

MISSION 007: *ILIAD*, pt. 2 > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

NICK SPENCER
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ARTISTS

RICK MAGYAR with BUTCH GUICE
INKERS

MATTHEW WILSON
COLORIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

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COLLAPSE ▾

THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE SECRET AVENGERS #5

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S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER ILIAD.
OPERATION 1021AF [UA] - UNDERWAY.
NO ONE FIRES UNLESS I SAY SO.
BLOW IT.
EXECUTE///

SBRAM!
HEY THERE, DAISY. HOPE I'M NOT CATCHING YOU WITH YOUR HAND TOO FAR IN THE COOKIE JAR HERE.
WOULDN'T MATTER IF YOU DID, HILL--

"ALREADY GOT WHAT I CAME FOR."
BARBUDA.
A.K.A. A.I.M. ISLAND.

TARGET DOWN--I'M COMPROMISED--REPEAT--
BOOM
PRETTY SURE THEY GOT YOU THE FIRST TIME, FURY.
SURE AS HELL HOPE SO, HAWKEYE--
SEEING AS WE ONLY GOT A FEW MINUTES LEFT.

NAT! YOU WITH US?!
UHNN... I'M FINE... I'M--
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'M STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
COULD USE SOME AIR COVER DOWN HERE, WIDOW--
OF COURSE. APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY, GENTLEMEN--
I'LL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.

SO AM I UNDER ARREST?
YOU MEAN FOR ORGANIZING AN UNSANCTIONED AND ILLEGAL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE DULY RECOGNIZED SOVEREIGN LEADER OF A U.N. MEMBER STATE?
DO THEY STILL CALL IT AN ATTEMPT AFTER HE'S DEAD?
>SIGH<--NO, YOU ARE NOT UNDER ARREST, SURPRISINGLY.
YOU ARE, HOWEVER, VERY, VERY *FIRED*--
DAISY LOUISE JOHNSON, BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, YOU ARE HEREBY RELIEVED OF YOUR DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., PENDING FORMAL REVIEW.
I BROUGHT DUDES WITH GUNS IN CASE THERE'S ANY CONFUSION.

SURE. OF COURSE. ONE THING, THOUGH--DO YOU WORRY THAT BUSTING IN HERE ON A.I.M.'S BEHALF MIGHT BE A JUMP THE SHARK MOMENT FOR YOU?
CUTE.
JUST SAYING, LAST TIME YOU GOT THIS JOB, IT WAS THE SKRULLS THAT WANTED YOU, RIGHT? STARTING TO SEE A PATTERN IN THE--
KRAK
YOU STUPID LITTLE GIRL. DO YOU NOT GET WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE? KILLING FORSON--WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT FORSON? YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY "SCIENTIST SUPREMES" A.I.M.'S BEEN THROUGH?
ALL YOU'VE MANAGED TO DO IS DAMAGE THIS ORGANIZATION SEVERELY AND GET THREE OF OUR OPERATIVES CAPTURED OR KILLED--
FOUR.
WHAT?
FOUR OPERATIVES.

BEEP BEEP BEEP
PLAYING OUR SONG.
EMERGENCY ALERT--YOU CHECK YOUR COMMS, I'LL CHECK MINE...
A.I.M. COMMUNICATIONS ARRAY. BARBUDA.
DAISY? DAISY, YOU READ?
HELL, DON'T MATTER, IT'S RIGHT HERE--LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT 'IM, ALL RIGHT. BUT YOUR PALS ARE FIGHTING IT OUT ON THE GROUNDS. NICE AND CORNERED.
WHAT? LET ME SEE THAT--
DAMN IT. THOSE GUYS--HOW DO WE GET TO THEM?
ME? I JUST WALK RIGHT UP. YOU--WELL, I AIN'T EVEN SURE HOW TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS STATION--
YOU SERIOUS?
CAMOTECH ENGAGED.

CHOK
AARGH!
AW, HELL.

I DON'T GET IT. WE HAD THEM IN A CORNER--WE HAD WORLD OPINION ON OUR SIDE, EVEN AFTER THE LAST TIME YOU SCREWED UP--
INSTEAD, WHAT DO YOU DO? THE ONLY THING THAT COULD MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE.
WE NEEDED TO SEND THEM A MESSAGE--
A--A MESSAGE?!
THEY KILLED ONE OF OURS. REB RALSTON IS DEAD, AND NOW WE--
NOW WE WHAT?! DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'LL PLAY THIS? *AN INVASION?* AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE EXPO? WE'RE FIGHTING FACTS WITH PARLOR TRICKS ALREADY--
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE POLITICS OF IT--
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE AGENTS YOU JUST SENT ON A SUICIDE MISSION!
YOU KNOW WHO A.I.M.'S GOT ON THAT HIGH COUNCIL. THEY'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES OF BREATH LEFT, IF THAT.
WOULDN'T BE SO SURE OF THAT--
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED MORE FIREPOWER, AFTER ALL.

YOU WERE NOT CALLED TO BE HERE.
BUT YOU SEE-- I WAS CALLED. TO DO GREAT WORKS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
UHNNFF...DON'T THINK YOU GET HOW THE WHOLE BLACK OPS THING WORKS, FRIEND...
FFFFF.... CRUSHING US...
WHAT WE DO HERE IS ALL THAT MATTERS--
AND I WILL NOT SUFFER DISTRACTIONS.
WELL, THEN, BY ALL MEANS, GRAVITON-- NNN--DON'T LOOK UP...

TARGETING...
TARGETING...
HIT 'EM HARD, TROOPS!
TARGETING...

AH, GOOD. WAR. JUST WHAT WE NEED.
SOMETIMES IT IS. YOU KNOW WHAT THE STAKES WERE. WE COULDN'T--
WE DIDN'T ANYTHING. YOU DID THIS. I KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT THE LONG GAME IS HERE, I'M THE ONE WHO DIDN'T LOSE SIGHT OF IT. AFTER ALL--
I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT KOBIK.
SIGH--
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ARREST YOU, JOHNSON, AND I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD YOU--
BUT AT LEAST I CAN TELL YOU TO GET THE HELL OFF MY SHIP.

HUARRGGH!
NOW, FOR THE REST OF US--LET'S CLEAN UP THIS MESS, YEAH? I'D LIKE FOR THERE TO STILL BE A PLANET HERE TOMORROW.

ALL RIGHT, NOW WE JUST KEEP OUR HEADS DOWN AND GET YOU BACK TO--
TASKMASTER!
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?
SUPERIA! OH, UH, I WAS--
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU FOR THE LAST HOUR--
LEAVE US.
Y-YES, MA'AM...
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
IT'S AN INVASION--BUT THE WARNING WE HAD WAS ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM--
NOW WE NEED TO GET THE REAL SCIENTIST SUPREME TO A SECURED LOCATION.

CONTROL, THIS IS MOCKINGBIRD-- YOU--YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS BUT-- FORSON, THE SCIENTIST SUPREME--HE'S ALIVE--
AND I'VE GOT VISUAL.
FORSON'S STILL...? CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT.
MOCKINGBIRD, THIS IS DIRECTOR HILL--I'M IN CHARGE HERE NOW--
HUH? WHERE'S DAISY? I'VE GOT A CLOSING WINDOW HERE--
NEGATIVE, MOCKINGBIRD! NEGATIVE! STAND DOWN!
WHAT?! NO, WE'VE GOT HIM--HE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME--
MOCKINGBIRD!
SORRY, HILL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I'VE GOT A SHOT-- I'M TAKING IT. ON YOUR SUPERIOR'S ORDERS.
AGENT MORSE! STOP RIGHT--

MA'AM-- PSI-SCAN SHOWS SHE'S CLOSE--
HOW CLOSE?
SECONDS.
SHUT HER DOWN.
MA'AM?
I SAID SHUT HER DOWN!
REVERIE
OOF!

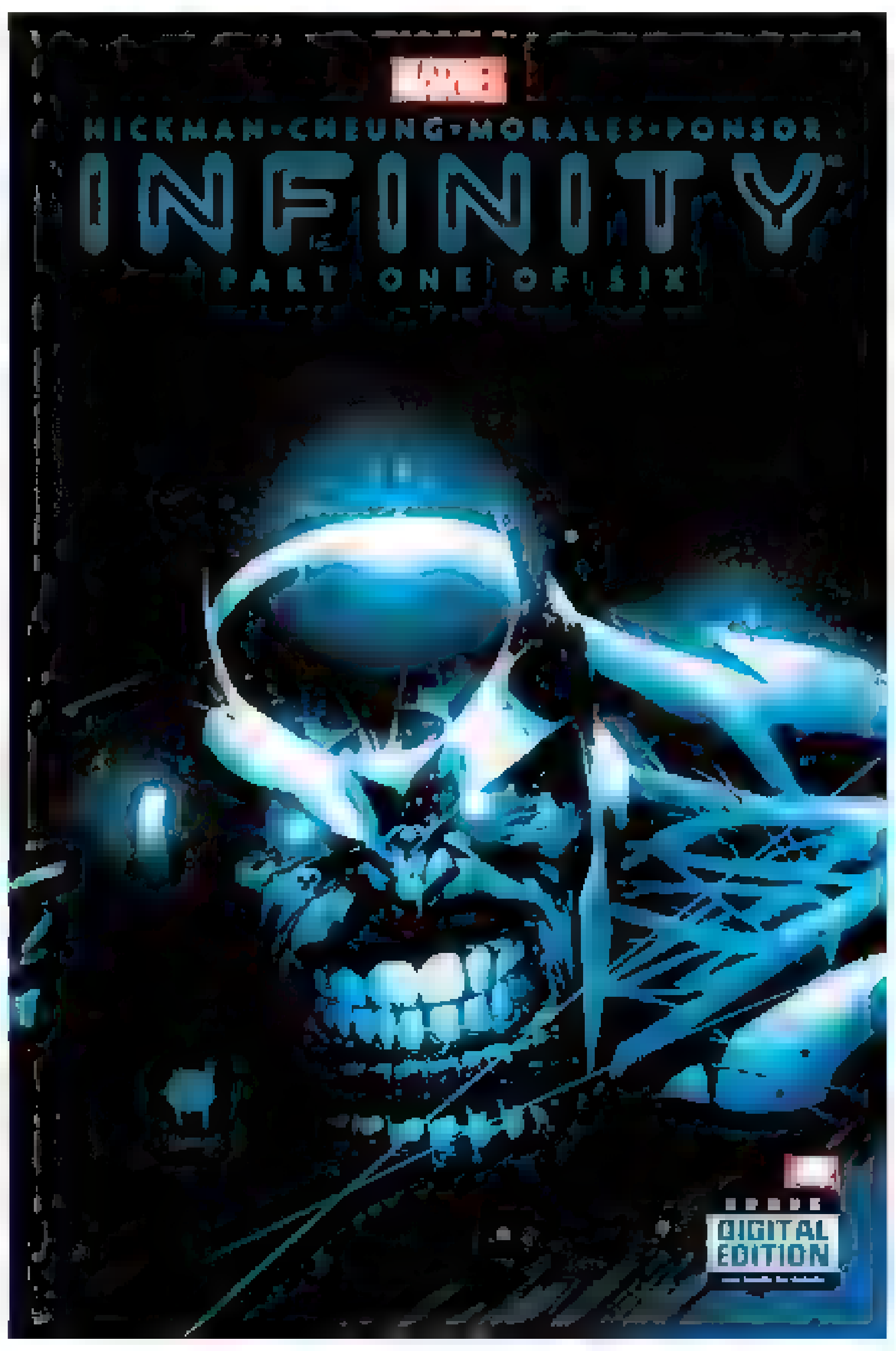
MA'AM--THAT MEANS--THE OTHER OPERATIVES--
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, AGENT--
WHERE'S MOCKINGBIRD?!
HAVE WE GOT BOBBI?!
"WE NEED A NEW MEMORY."
REVERIE
SORRY, GUYS, THINK YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS MISSION WITHOUT ME, DOC'S ORDERS.
WHICH IS A SHAME, I LOVE BEACHES.

OKAY, ALL IN--LET'S MOVE!
WHERE AM I?

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

You got a taste of it this past Free Comic Book Day! You've witnessed the build-up to it in the pages of **AVENGERS** and **NEW AVENGERS**! And now the moment is here—**INFINITY #1** kicks off the grandest outer space epic in the memory of Marveldom this very month! Authored by AVENGERS architect Jonathan Hickman and illustrated by an awesome assemblage of AVENGERS artists, beginning with Jim Cheung (who'll be joined in the issues ahead by Jerome Opeña and Dustin Weaver), INFINITY pits Marvel's greatest champions against not one but two threats from beyond the confines of our world! And when one of those threats is the mad Titan Thanos, you can be sure the conflict that follows won't be for the faint-hearted! You can expect to see the events of INFINITY impact all across the Marvel line in the months to come, especially in our own AVENGERS family of titles! And it all starts on 8/14 at your local comic shop or digitally on the Marvel App!



Hey, you AR fanatics! We're so excited about INFINITY this month that we wanted to clue you in to a little Easter Egg we've planted for you to find! Embedded within the pages of the various "Prelude to INFINITY" issues of AVENGERS and NEW AVENGERS (that's AVENGERS #14-17 and NEW AVENGERS #7-8) we've hidden AR activations that will give you the inside scoop on some of what you'll be seeing in the main INFINITY event! To access them, all you need to do is point the Marvel AR App on your digital device at the appropriate page! Which page? Hey, we can't make everything easy for you! But we're confident that genuine dyed-in-the-wool True Believers will be able to hunt them out!

You'd like a feel-good letter to close out on, wouldn't you?

January 6 my husband and I celebrated our eleven year anniversary, and I know that I am blessed to be married to a true super hero. I turned 42 on December 21 and enjoy reading comics. It's actually my first time to read comics ever!

I grew up being taught this stuff was inappropriate and almost evil. I would secretly watch the Hulk on TV and worked at a movie theatre where I had the excuse to try and enjoy entertainment. Comics were for boys anyway. Super heroes were a joke. When my husband and I were married he knew I was uncomfortable with all his comics, so he sold them.

Then on July 4th, 2007 I lay in a hospital room as a doctor walked in and diagnosed me with Leukemia. The next five months the hospital would be my second home and three more months on an experimental chemo with the hope of keeping me alive. I would go at times seven days a week for twenty-four hours a day having chemo pumped into a port in my chest. The times I was able to come home my husband would have to give me shots every day, cook, write the bills, clean, laundry, and he even came down with the flu and still kept going. He also had to go to work and I still always had a homemade sandwich brought to me every day while in the hospital. He was Hulk smashing through it all!!

The next thing we knew we were hiking the Grand Canyon! We just celebrated me being five years Leukemia-free!

The Avengers were about to be released in the theatre and Jason was really pumped for this. There was no way I would let my super hero miss this because of me even though I was not excited. Super heroes were a joke, remember? I decided we could rent Thor so I would at least know another super hero besides Hulk. STOP THE PRESS!!! That moment changed everything! I couldn't believe the amazing story I was seeing.

It didn't stop there because I had us watching Iron Man and Captain America while my husband sat there frozen in disbelief! Then the big day in May came, and I don't think Jason had fully recovered from shock as he sat next to the once super hero hater who now anxiously awaited the start of the movie!

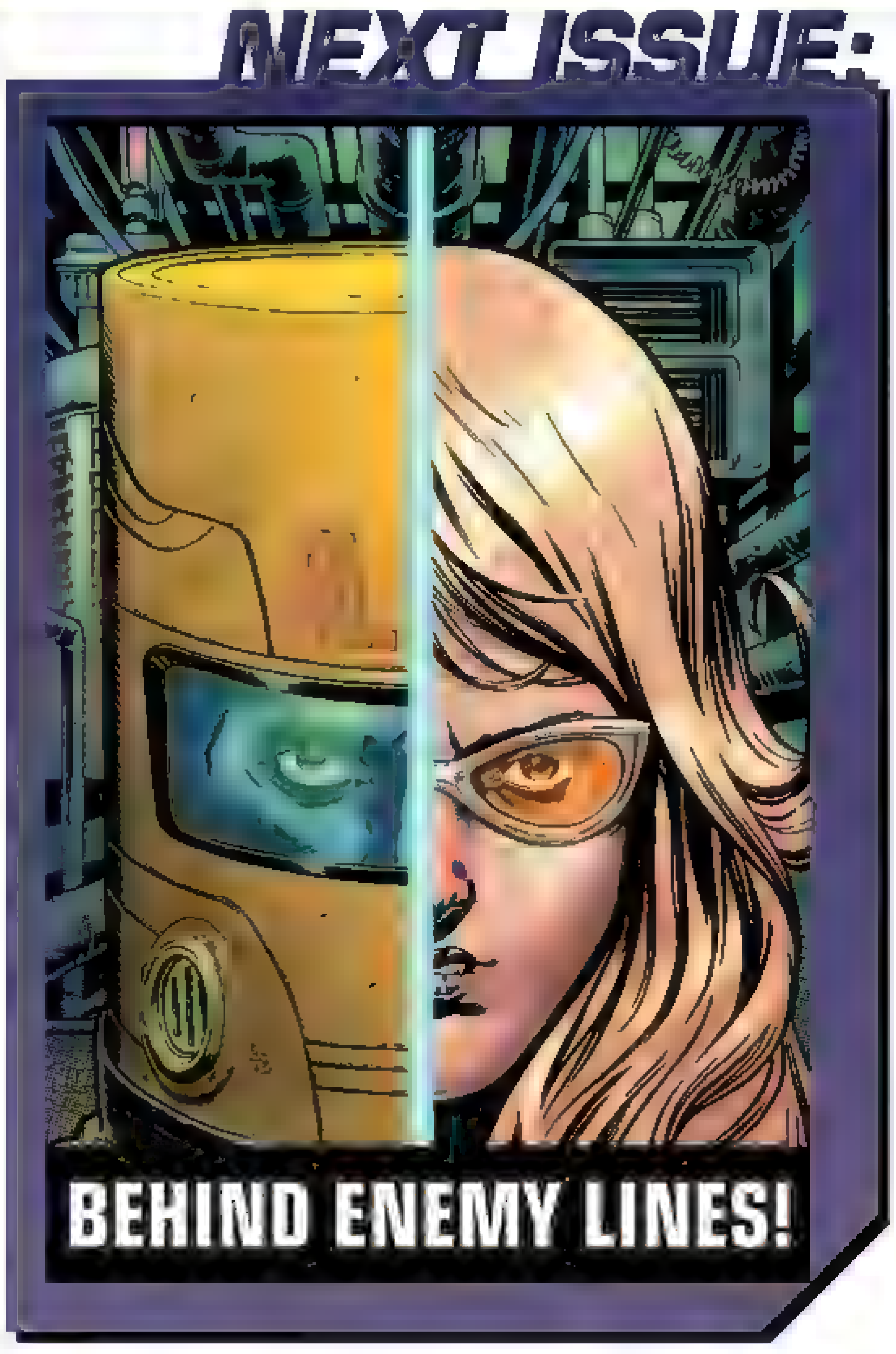
The rest is history and now I am the one telling him which comics are coming out and making sure we don't miss one issue! What a perfect time for a new beginning in Marvel comics! We now are getting Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Avengers Assemble, and Avengers.

We now have comic night and I get to read Thor and Iron Man first but he gets first call on the others. I love the different art in each comic and how so many awesome stories can be told. I think every hospital should be required to have a subscription to Marvel Comics. We need this in the world we live in. Comics and heroes are great and it's okay to like them. When you see a whole bunch of families and friends cheering together in a movie and seeing the fun reading the comics has brought to me and my husband, how could that be wrong?

It could be cancer or whatever obstacle that will enter our lives that may seem too much to handle but I believe we are never given anything we are not able to conquer, so put the hammer down on it or Hulk smash your way through it or whatever superpower you love–just use it and don't give up! Thanks again, Marvel, for keeping the stories going!

Kimberly Kappmeyer
Lady Asgard

NEXT ISSUE:


BEHIND ENEMY LINES!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #17 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! TO FACE THE COMING THREAT, THE AVENGERS TAKE ON NEW RECRUITS!

AVENGERS #18 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AVENGERS PETITION THE COUNCIL OF WORLDS!

AVENGERS ARENA #13 ☐
THE AVENGERS ACADEMY SEARCHES FOR ITS MISSING STUDENTS!

AVENGERS ARENA #14 ☐
"BOSS LEVEL," THE FINAL STORY ARC, BEGINS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #18 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN IS ON THE FRONT LINES!

INFINITY #1 ☐
IT'S A WAR ON TWO FRONTS, WITH THE HEROES OF EARTH TORN BETWEEN THEM!

NEW AVENGERS #9 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE CULL OBSIDIAN STRIKES EARTH!

SECRET AVENGERS #8 ☐
MOCKINGBIRD, TRAPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #11 ☐
WILL THE SCARLET WITCH AID IN THE MUTANT RAPTURE?

YOUNG AVENGERS #9 ☐
HEARTBREAK SHATTERS THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

AVENGERS AI #2 ☐
DIMITRIOS RISES—WITHIN THE SENTIENT IRON MAN ARMOR!

A + X #11 ☐
THOR AND MAGIK! CYCLOPS AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #17 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

SECRET AVENGERS

MARVEL

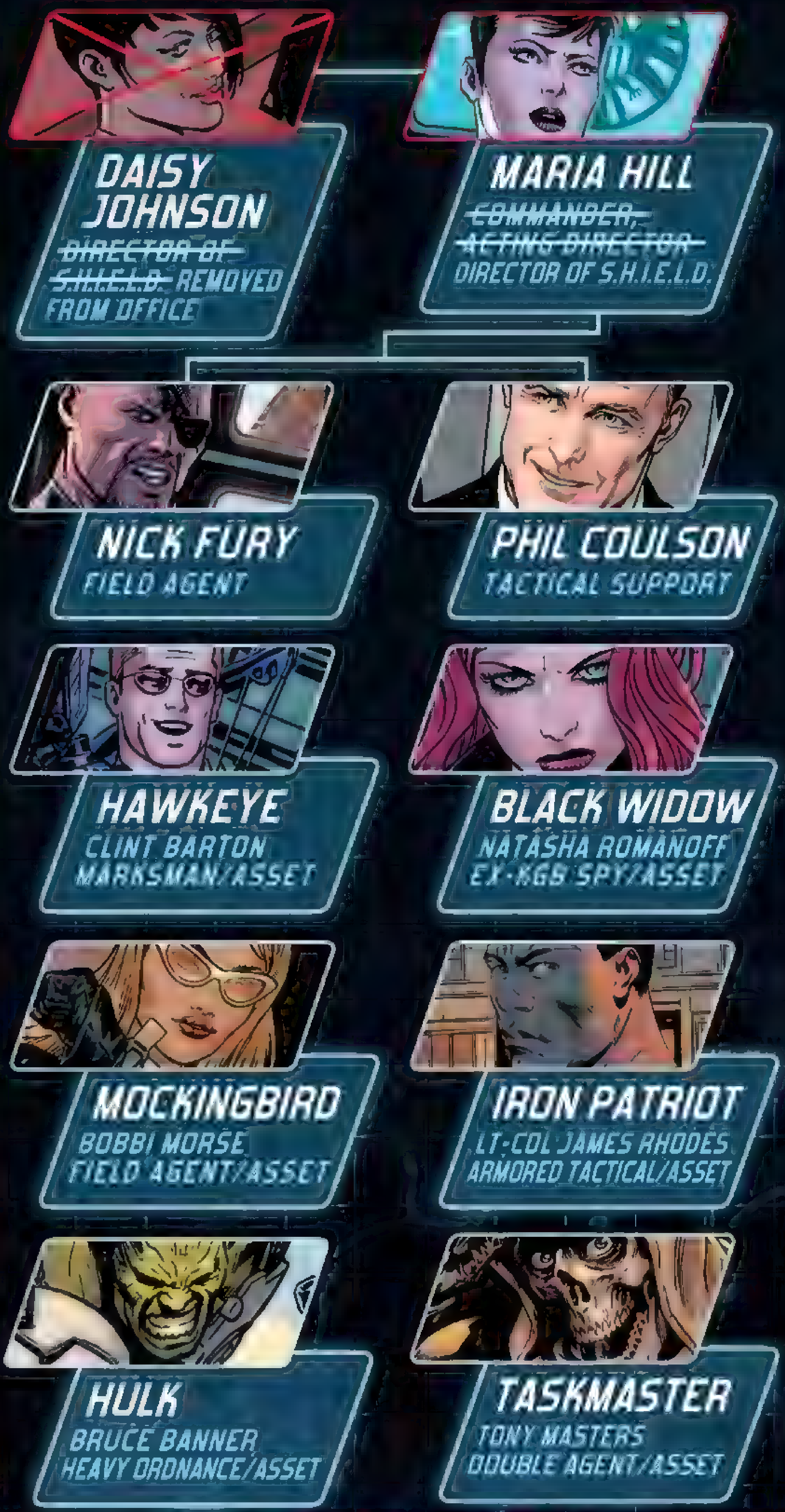
SPENCER
ROSS
WILSON

008

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

COLLAPSE


DAISY JOHNSON
~~DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.~~ REMOVED FROM OFFICE
MARIA HILL
~~COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR~~
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT
PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT
HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET
BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET
MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
FIELD AGENT/ASSET
IRON PATRIOT
LT. COL JAMES RHODES
ARMORED TACTICAL/ASSET
HULK
BRUCE BANNER
HEAVY ORDNANCE/ASSET
TASKMASTER
TONY MASTERS
DOUBLE AGENT/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INTERCEPT AND DISARM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. THE SECRET AVENGERS ARE A NEW BLACK-OPS TEAM OF SPECIALLY RECRUITED HEROES TASKED WITH THE MISSIONS S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN. AFTER EACH OPERATION, ALL MISSION INTELLIGENCE IS WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES.

IN LIGHT OF DIRECTOR DAISY JOHNSON'S UNSANCTIONED MISSION TO ASSASSINATE THE HEAD OF FORMER TERROR ORGANIZATION A.I.M., MARIA HILL REMOVED JOHNSON OF HER DUTIES AND TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. JOHNSON'S PRIMARY SQUAD OF BLACK WIDOW, HAWKEYE AND NICK FURY WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, KILLING A DECOY INSTEAD OF THE SCIENTIST SUPREME. HOWEVER, MOCKINGBIRD, SENT AS BACKUP FOR THE SQUAD, WAS IN PLACE TO TAKE OUT THE GENUINE SCIENTIST SUPREME. KNOWING THAT GRAVE GEOPOLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS WOULD FOLLOW IF THE ASSASSINATION WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, HILL ACTIVATED MOCKINGBIRD'S REVERIE PROTOCOL AND WIPED ALL OF HER MEMORIES OF THE MISSION, PLUS THOSE OF HER TEAMMATES' MEMORIES OF MOCKINGBIRD BEING ON THE MISSION. MOCKINGBIRD FOUND HERSELF LEFT BEHIND IN ENEMY TERRITORY: ALONE, TRAPPED, AND WITH NO MEMORY OF HOW SHE GOT THERE...

MISSION 008: THE CATHEDRAL > > >

COLLAPSE

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FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

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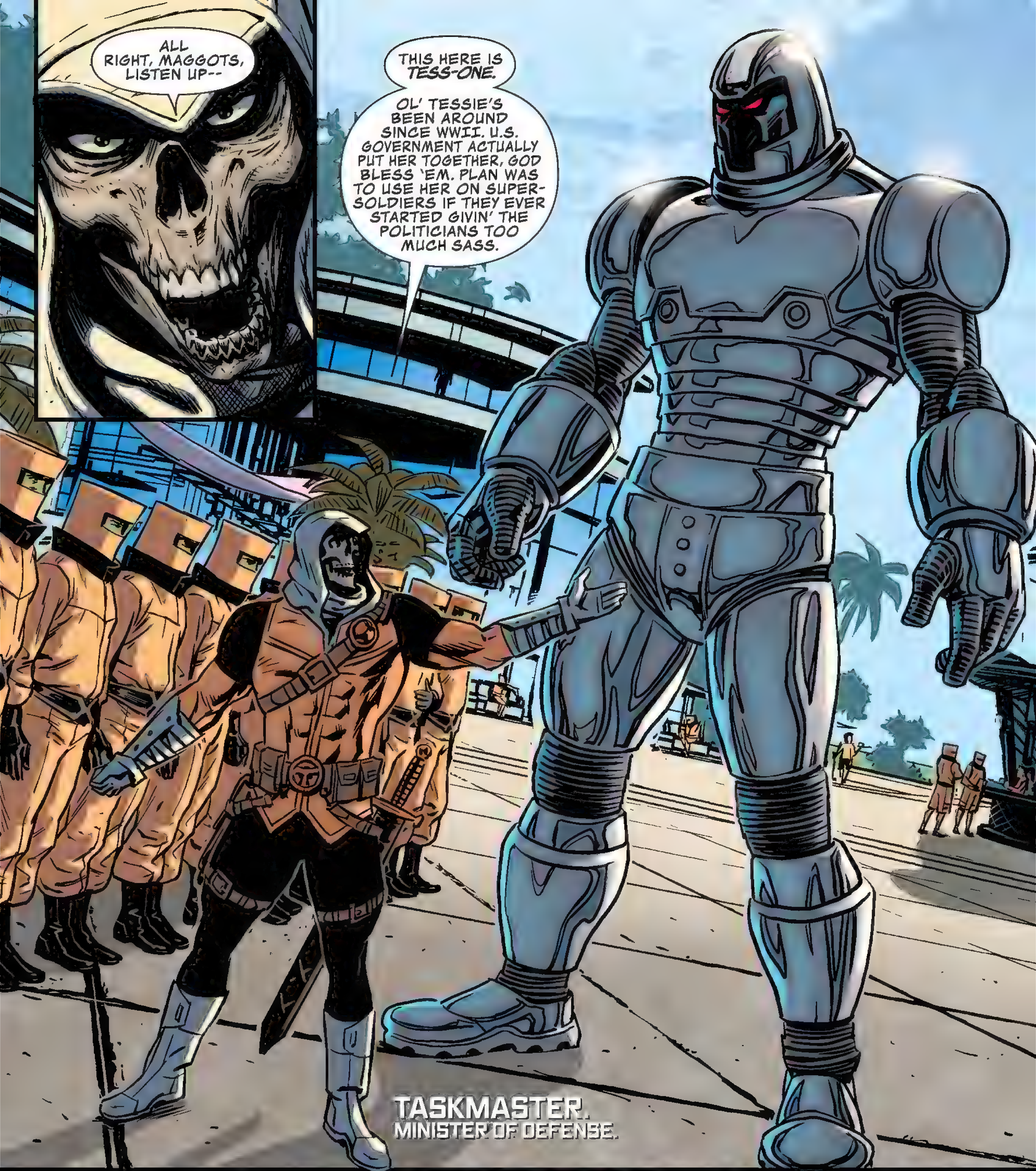
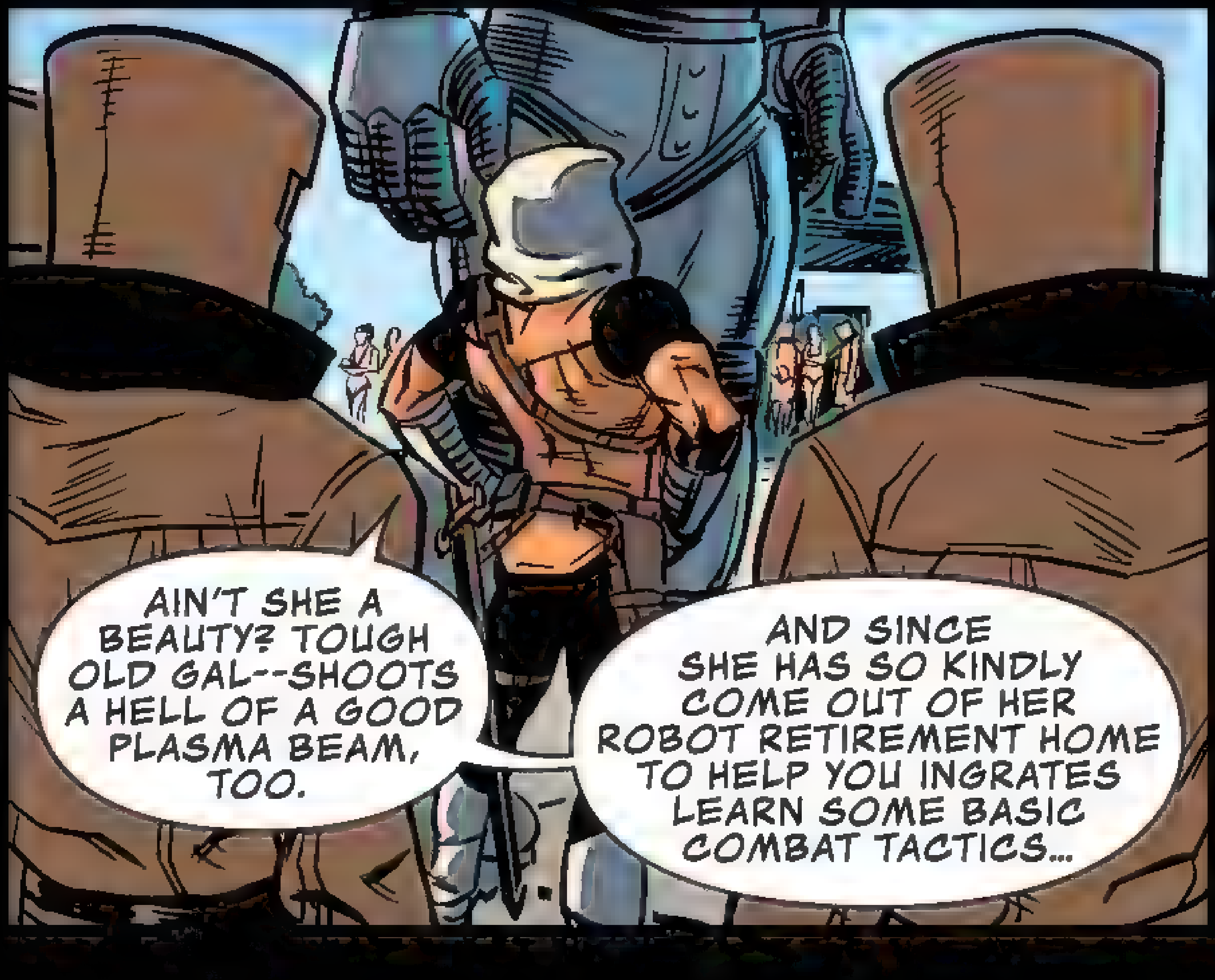
MY NAME IS BOBBI MORSE.
I ALSO SOMETIMES GO BY *MOCKINGBIRD.*
I AM AN AVENGER-- A FEW TIMES OVER NOW, IN FACT.
I HAVE THE INFINITY FORMULA COURSING THROUGH MY VEINS, A GIFT FROM NICK FURY SR.
I'VE TRAVELLED THROUGH TIME, AND SPENT YEARS HELD PRISONER BY SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIENS.
ONE TIME I FOUGHT FREAKIN' DORMAMMU.
THESE THINGS HAPPENED TO ME. I SAW THEM THROUGH MY OWN EYES. AND THESE EXPERIENCES HELPED MAKE ME WHO I AM TODAY--

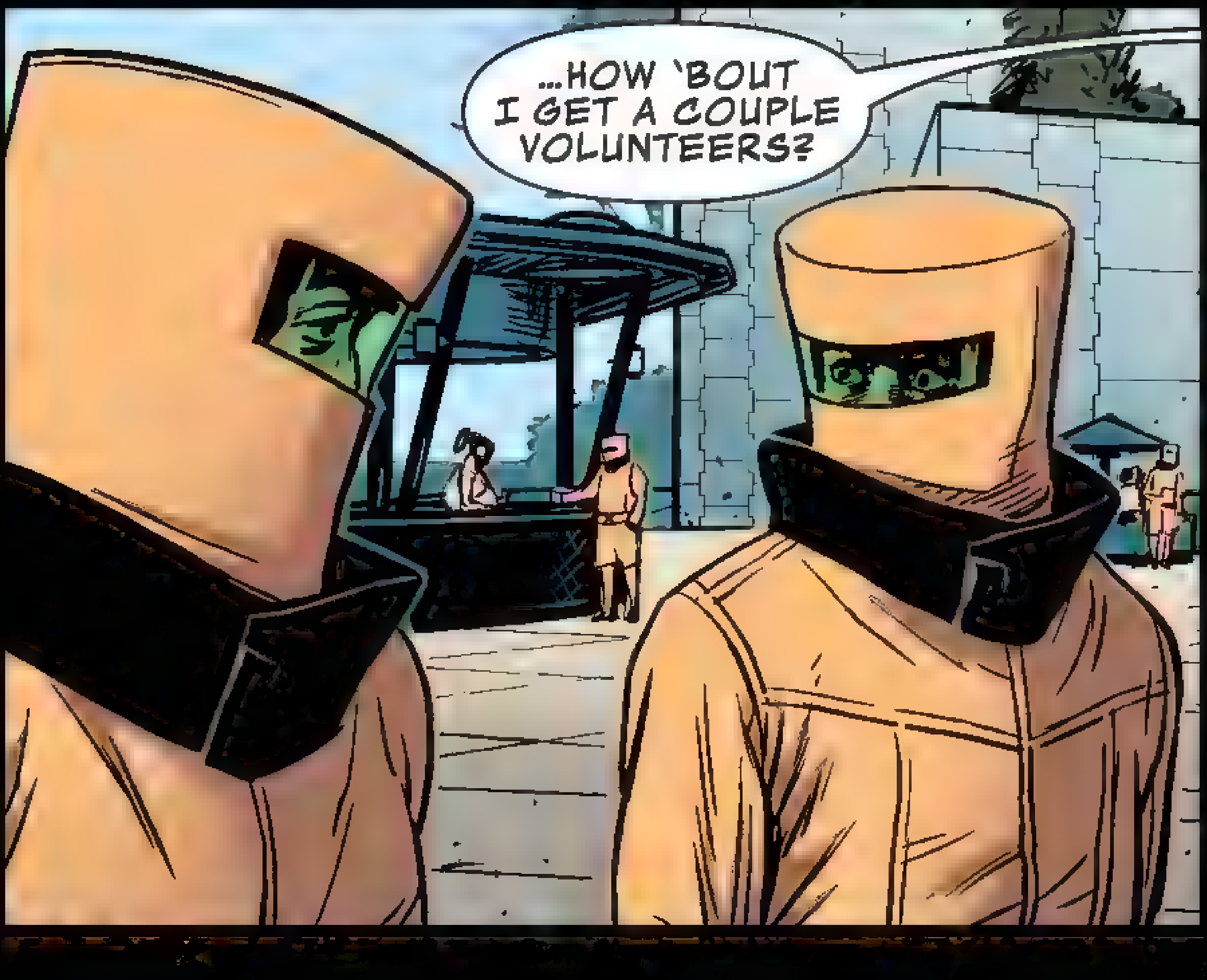
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TRYING TO TELL MYSELF.
BAINBRIDGE! YOU WITH US, OR WHAT?
Y-YEAH...
I'M ON MY WAY.

HOW I GOT HERE, I HAVE NO IDEA. ONE MINUTE, I WAS CLOCKING A FEW HOURS IN THE GYM, AND SUDDENLY--
SUDDENLY, I WAS HERE. *A.I.M. ISLAND.*
AND ALL HELL HAD BROKEN LOOSE.
APPARENTLY THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS PLACE CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM S.H.I.E.L.D., ALONG WITH MY EX-HUSBAND--HAWKEYE--NICK FURY, AND THE BLACK WIDOW.
AN ATTACK I AM CERTAIN BROUGHT ME HERE AS WELL.
BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW I'M STILL HERE, TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A FORTY-SOMETHING-YEAR-OLD A.I.M. SCIENTIST--A GUY NAMED HAROLD BAINBRIDGE.
A.I.M.
ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS
TUBE
rold Bainbridge
850
ST 10
11 452345 90
AND YES, THAT IS EVERY BIT AS UNPLEASANT AS IT SOUNDS.

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE THEN, AND SO FAR, I HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP MY COVER.
AIM
AIM
BARELY.
THANKFULLY, I WAS A BIOLOGIST IN A PAST LIFE, AND SO IS THIS GUY--THOUGH I DOUBT THAT'S A COINCIDENCE.
AS SUCH, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BLUFF MY WAY THROUGH A FAIR AMOUNT OF CONVERSATIONS.
ADVANCED
BUT I DON'T KNOW HAROLD'S WORK. I DON'T HAVE HIS PASSWORDS. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S FRIENDLY OR SURLY, SHY OR OUTGOING, GAY OR STRAIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO HIS FRIENDS ARE, OR WHAT HE EATS FOR LUNCH.
I FAKED SICK FOR A COUPLE DAYS, BUT IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT, THE BENEFITS AT A.I.M. SUCK, AND AS SUCH, IT'S TIME I CLOCK BACK IN--I FIGURE I'LL LAST AN HOUR AT BEST BEFORE I'M FOUND OUT.
BUT THEN, I'M AN *OPTIMIST.*


ALL RIGHT, MAGGOTS, LISTEN UP--
THIS HERE IS *TESS-ONE.*
OL' TESSIE'S BEEN AROUND SINCE WWII. U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY PUT HER TOGETHER, GOD BLESS 'EM. PLAN WAS TO USE HER ON SUPER-SOLDIERS IF THEY EVER STARTED GIVIN' THE POLITICIANS TOO MUCH SASS.
TASKMASTER.
MINISTER OF DEFENSE.


AIN'T SHE A BEAUTY? TOUGH OLD GAL--SHOOTS A HELL OF A GOOD PLASMA BEAM, TOO.
AND SINCE SHE HAS SO KINDLY COME OUT OF HER ROBOT RETIREMENT HOME TO HELP YOU INGRATES LEARN SOME BASIC COMBAT TACTICS...

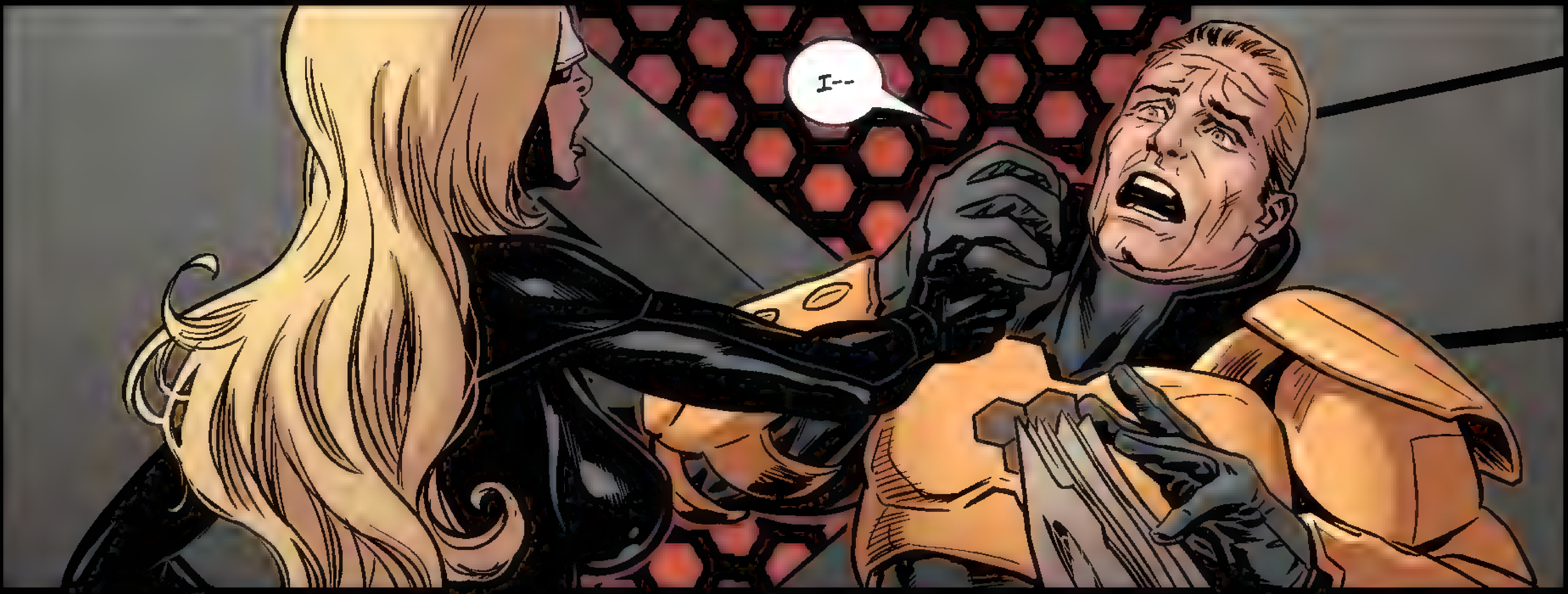

...HOW 'BOUT I GET A COUPLE VOLUNTEERS?

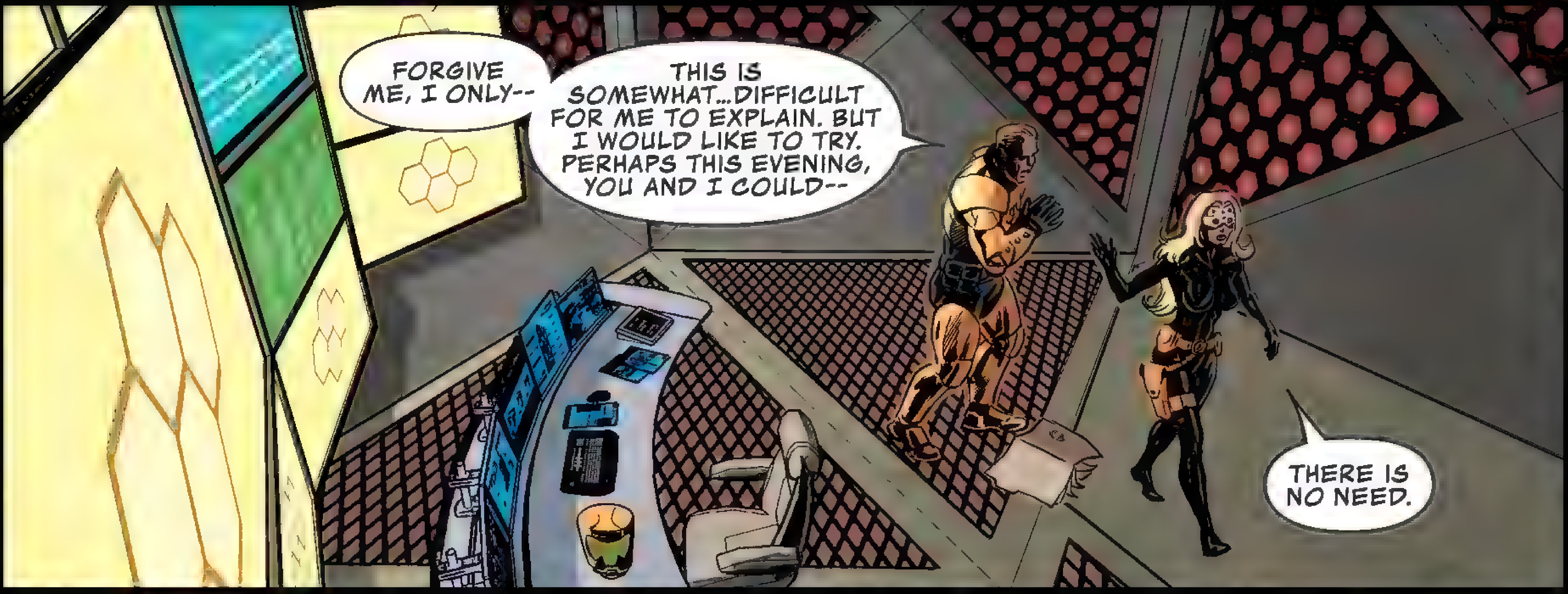
OH, I GET IT, I GET IT--
FIRST DANCE, ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS JUST WANNA STAND AROUND THE PUNCH BOWL...WELL, LET'S SEE THEN--
YOU TWO! STEP ON UP!
UH, US? I DON'T THINK--
WHAT'S YOUR TRAININ'?
GEOMORPHOLOGY?
LISTEN, UH, SIR--THE LADY AT ORIENTATION, SHE SEEMED A LITTLE DISTRACTED--I THINK THERE'S BEEN A PAPERWORK MIX-UP...
HM. THAT RIGHT? LEMME GET A LOOK AT YOU THEN...
I WENT TO BROWN.
NO, NO-- I DON'T THINK SO--
YOU LOOK LIKE BORN KILLERS TO ME.
TEACH 'EM GOOD, TESSIE!
YAAAGH!

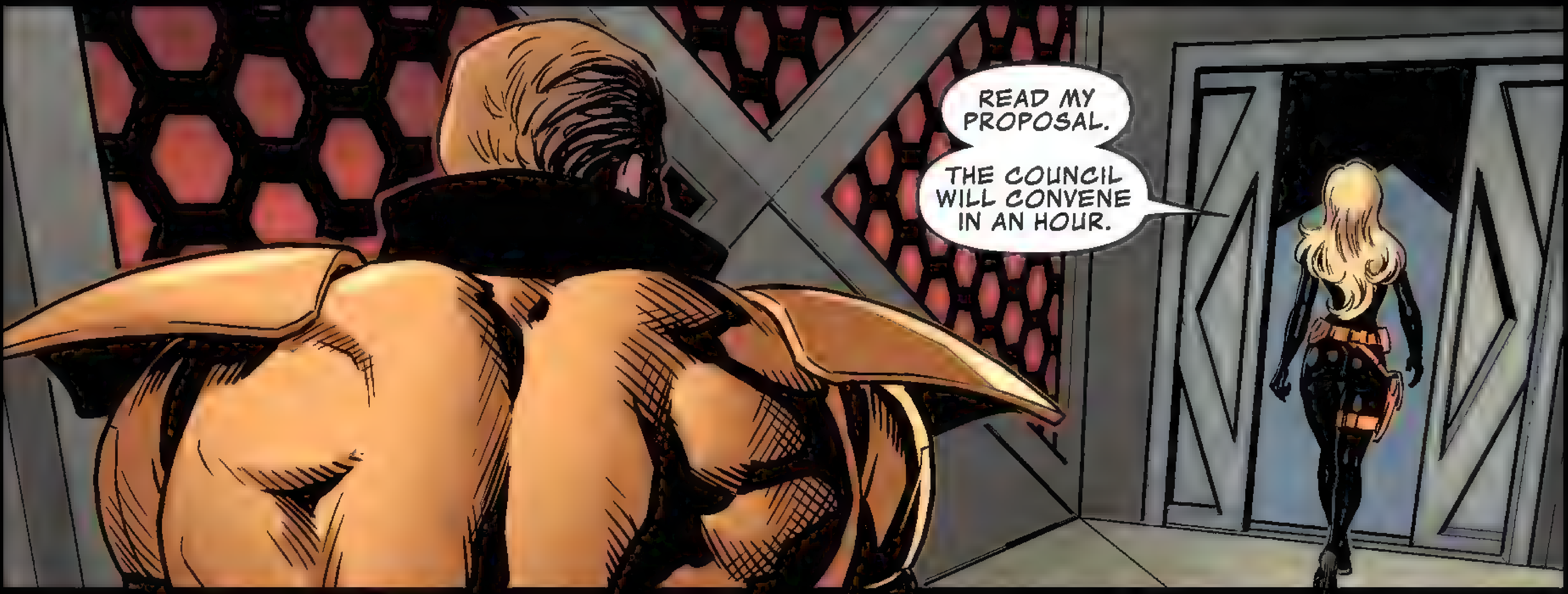
WHERE WERE WE?
15-ALL.
YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH MY HEAD.
I'D NEVER.
MENTALLO, MINISTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.
C'MON, THEN. I'VE BEEN WATCHING A TAPE OF THIS LITTLE JAPANESE KID ON MY PHONE--MY PHOTOGRAPHIC REFLEXES ARE GONNA TEAR YOU UP, MARVIN.
YOU SURE THEY'RE ALL RIGHT OUT THERE?
HUH? AW, YEAH, TESSIE KNOWS I JUST WANT HER TO MESS 'EM UP A BIT--
ARRRGGHHH!
WELL, HELL.
YELENA BELOVA, MINISTER OF STATE.
I NEED ANOTHER VOLUNTEER!

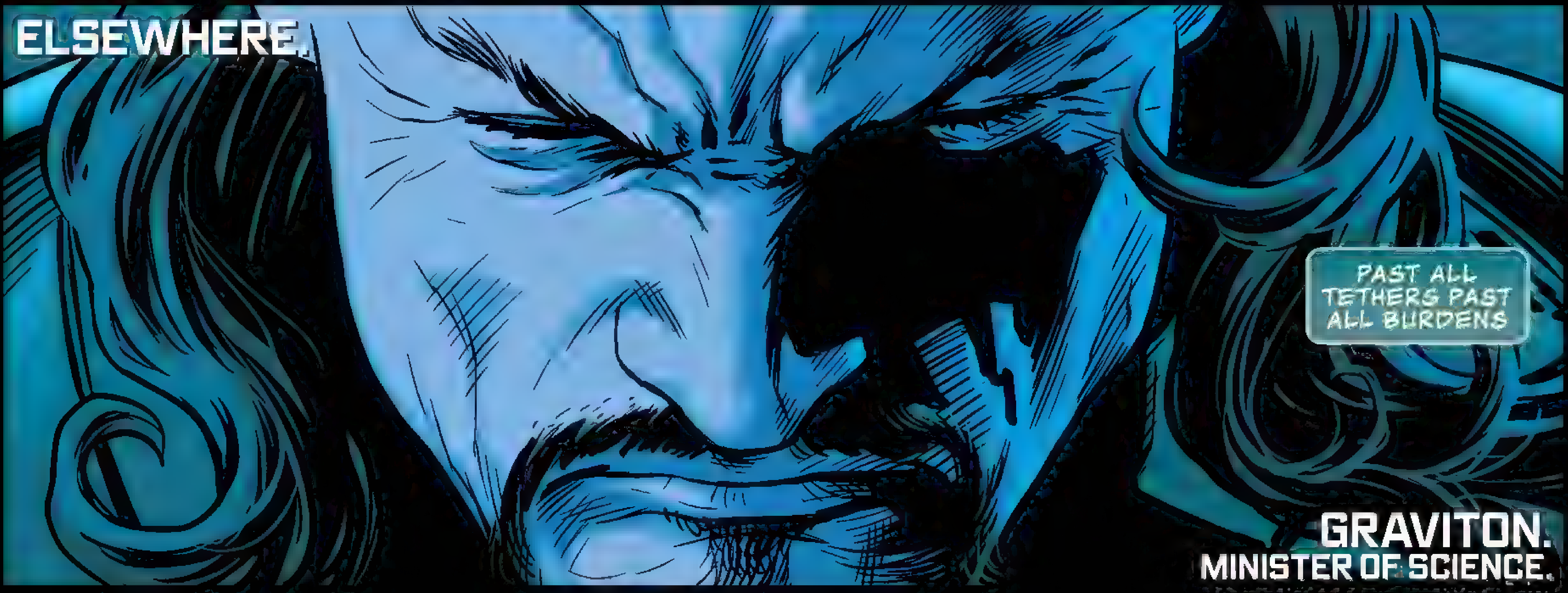
--OF COURSE, MINISTER--WE'RE HAPPY TO SEND ALONG THE NEW STRAIN...I THINK YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY ITS POTENCY.
BUT PLEASE, CONSIDER IT A GIFT FROM US TO YOU--ALL OF US AT A.I.M. UNDERSTAND THE SYMBIOSIS OF CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY THAT EVADES SO MANY OTHER RATIONAL MINDS--IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, HOWEVER--
I HAVE AN HONORED GUEST TO WELCOME.
YELENA.
SCIENTIST SUPREME.
NO, PLEASE--CALL ME ANDREW.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WOULD--
PLEASE--IT WOULD COMFORT ME SO.
ANDREW.
WONDERFUL. NOW, TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?
I AM HERE TO BRIEF YOU ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY TASKMASTER ON MILITARY DIVERSIFICATION.

AH YES, OUR BURGEONING ARMY. EXCITING, ISN'T IT? THE BIRTH OF A NEW REPUBLIC--
IT'S A DISASTER, IS WHAT IT IS.
OH?
A MERCENARY HALF-WIT HAS BROUGHT US A LEGION OF MERCENARIES AND HALF-WITS. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED.
WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND ENCOURAGING...
THEY WILL MAKE FOR FINE FODDER. BUT THAT IS SOMETHING A.I.M. HAS NEVER LACKED. WHAT YOU NEED IS AN ELITE FORCE, SPECIALLY TRAINED, TO CHARGE FORWARD FIRST. THE BLACK GUARD.
I SEE. AND I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT A HAND IN TRAINING THEM?
A *FIRM* HAND. SOMEWHERE FAR FROM HERE, REMOVED FROM THE COMFORTS OF THIS ISLAND. THIS PLACE WAS BUILT FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. IT MAKES FOR A POOR HELL. AND HELL IS WHAT THEY NEED TO SEE.
THIS IS MY PROPOSAL.
WELL, I WILL CERTAINLY CONSIDER IT, BUT--YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, YELENA--THE LENGTHS WE WENT TO, TO BRING YOU HERE--TO BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE. AND HOW BADLY YOU ARE--NEEDED. NOT JUST BY THIS INSTITUTION--
BUT BY ME.


I--


FORGIVE ME, I ONLY--
THIS IS SOMEWHAT...DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TRY. PERHAPS THIS EVENING, YOU AND I COULD--
THERE IS NO NEED.


READ MY PROPOSAL.
THE COUNCIL WILL CONVENE IN AN HOUR.


ELSEWHERE.
PAST ALL TETHERS PAST ALL BURDENS
GRAVITON.
MINISTER OF SCIENCE.

PAST NAMES
PAST SEPARATION
PAST DISTINCTION
NO DISTANCE
NO MEASURE
HERE NOW
GONE AWAY
NOT FAR
HERE NOT
HERE
THIS IS WHERE
YOU TRIUMPHED OVER
DEATH IT IS WITH YOU
MAKES YOU TRY
TO FORGET LOSE
HOLD NOT FAR HERE
TALKING TO YOURSELF. FIRST SIGN OF MADNESS--
AND CERTAINLY NOT VERY ZEN.
HRR.

SUPERIA. THIS INTRUSION IS--
THE COST OF FREE RENT, I'M AFRAID...
SUPERIA. MINISTER OF EDUCATION.
OUR "SCIENTIST SUPREME" AND HIS LITTLE ADAPTOID FRIEND HAVE CALLED A MEETING.
HRR. ANOTHER?
WHAT'S A WAR WITHOUT BUREAUCRACY, I'D ASK?
I DID NOT COME HERE FOR WAR. I CAME HERE FOR SOMETHING GREATER THAN... THIS.
AS DID I. DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE NOT EXPECTED TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY IN THE MEANTIME.
IT IS A WASTE OF OUR ENERGIES.
I HAPPEN TO AGREE. ALL THIS UNPLEASANTNESS WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.... IT OCCURS TO ME HOW BLOODY REVOLUTIONS OFTEN ARE. THRONES AND MUSICAL CHAIRS, SNOWBALL AND NAPOLEON...
WE MIGHT DO WELL TO CONSIDER THE VALUE OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCES IF IT COMES TO THAT. OINK OINK.
AND GOD KNOWS I'M NOT ASKING ANY FAVORS FROM OUR FRIEND IN THE CATHEDRAL.

THE CATHEDRAL IS THE SOURCE OF THE LOST TRUTH, AND HE SPENT A LIFETIME WORKING TO REACH IT.
THE ENDLESS HOURS OF STUDY AND PREPARATION, HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE, ALL LED TO THIS.
THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST. IT WOULD NOT BE THE LAST. BUT THIS WAS THE ONE DREAMED OF, THE ONE THAT CALLED TO HIM.
THERE HAD BEEN MANY WHO SOUGHT THE HONOR TO WALK THROUGH ITS DOORS, BUT HE WAS NOW CHOSEN.
HE CAME ALONE.
WELCOME, MY FRIEND-- WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
THE MASTER WAITS FOR YOU ABOVE. REMEMBER--
THERE IS ONLY *ONE* END.
AND SO THE LONG CLIMB BEGINS--

BEHIND EACH DOOR, A PATH. A CHOICE. A DESTINY.
BEHIND THE FIRST, A LIFE OF PURE PLEASURE.
HERE, NO TEMPTATION WILL BE DENIED HIM, NO DESIRE LEFT UNFULFILLED.
HE CAN TAKE WHAT HE WANTS, WHENEVER HE WANTS, IF HE ONLY STOPS.
STILL HE CLIMBS.
BEHIND THE NEXT, A LIFE OF CONTENTMENT.
HERE HE IS LOVED, TRULY, AND GIVES LOVE IN RETURN.
HE COULD STOP HERE, AND KNOW THE JOY OF A FAMILY, THE SAFETY OF A HOME.
STILL HE CLIMBS.

TOWARDS POWER--
POWER ABSOLUTE--
AND POWER DIVINE.
STILL HE CLIMBS--
REACHING FOR THE TRUTH.
JUDE THE ENTROPIC MAN, MINISTER OF HEALTH.

MY LORD JUDE, I DON'T--NOTHING I'VE DONE CAN MAKE ME WORTHY OF THIS HONOR. THE **CLIMB** WAS AN HONOR.
IT IS NOT TO MAKE YOU WORTHY. IT IS TO MAKE YOU READY--
SO THAT YOU MAY SEE.
MY GOD... THIS IS IT. THE LOST TRUTH.
SOME SAID IT WAS THE CONNECTION POINT BETWEEN RELATIVITY AND QUANTUM MECHANICS...OTHERS SAID IT WAS A MORE COHESIVE STRING THEORY--BUT THIS IS MORE THAN THAT...THIS IS...
THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE HIDDEN WITHIN ALL MEN.
IT'S...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
YES IT IS...
FAR TOO BEAUTIFUL.

THERE'S A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION YOU GO THROUGH WITH THESE THINGS.
FOR A SECOND, IT FLASHES ACROSS YOUR MIND THAT, HEY, MAYBE YOU REALLY ARE HAROLD BAINBRIDGE. MAYBE YOU WERE A MOCKINGBIRD STALKER THAT LOST FOCUS OR SOMETHING.
AFTER ALL, WHO TRUSTS THEIR OWN HEAD?
BUT TESTING OUT THAT THESIS WAS EASY ENOUGH--YES, I AM STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO DENT STEEL DOORS WITH MY BARE HANDS. SO I AM WHO I THINK I AM. THERE'S THAT.
WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO CONFRONT ANOTHER, FAR MORE LIKELY SCENARIO--
ONE THAT EXPLAINS WHY MY OUTWARD APPEARANCE IS SO DECEIVING, AND IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH MY PAST HISTORY--
THAT I REALLY AM A SHAPE-SHIFTING SKRULL AFTER ALL.
BUT I'M NOT READY TO DEAL WITH THAT POSSIBILITY BY ANY MEANS.

HARRY!
HEY, HARRY!
YEAH, YOU. WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?
UH...OUT SICK?
ADV
ECHANICS
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT? PICKED A HELL OF A WEEK FOR IT. YOU GOT IT?
GOT? UH... RIGHT...
EXIT
BECAUSE WE SHOULD BE THERE ALREADY.
NOW COME ON.

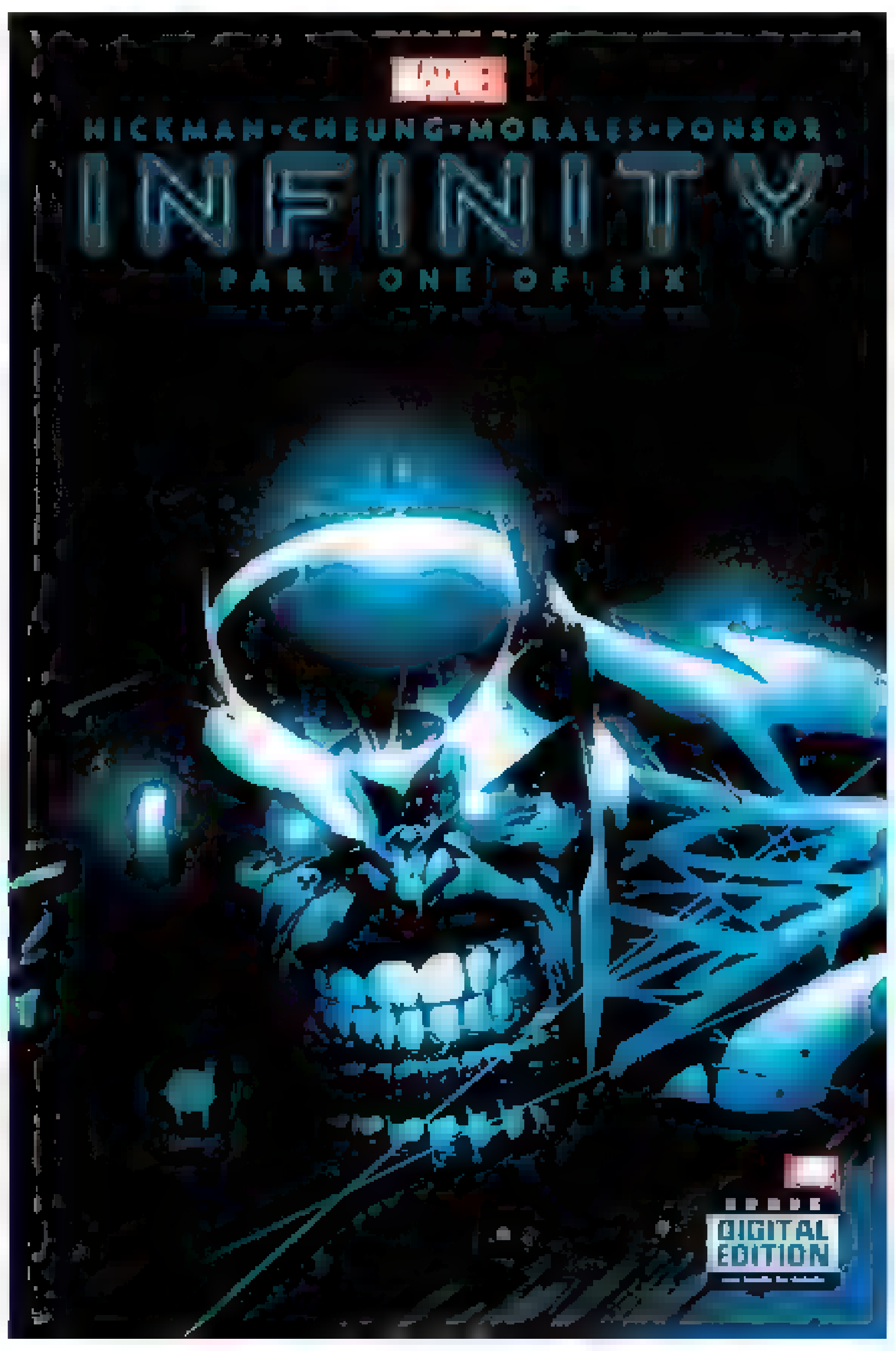
I HOPE YOU SPENT YOUR "SICK DAYS" PRACTICING, BECAUSE GOD KNOWS THE LAST TIME I HEARD YOU GO THROUGH IT, I SURE AS HELL WASN'T IMPRESSED.
RIGHT...
DON'T GET ALL QUIET ON ME, MAN--YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED THIS, REMEMBER?
I WAS HAPPY TO DO IT, BUT NO, YOU WANTED THE GLORY--AND THAT'S FINE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL HERE...
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH THEIR ASS ON THE LINE HERE, YOU GET THAT?
THIS PRESENTATION IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND THE PROJECT BEING SHUT DOWN. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
WAIT-- *PRESENTATION?*
THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT IS COUNTING ON YOU, HARRY--

DON'T SCREW THIS UP.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

You got a taste of it this past Free Comic Book Day! You've witnessed the build-up to it in the pages of **AVENGERS** and **NEW AVENGERS**! And now the moment is here—**INFINITY #1** kicks off the grandest outer space epic in the memory of Marveldom this very month! Authored by AVENGERS architect Jonathan Hickman and illustrated by an awesome assemblage of AVENGERS artists, beginning with Jim Cheung (who'll be joined in the issues ahead by Jerome Opeña and Dustin Weaver), INFINITY pits Marvel's greatest champions against not one but two threats from beyond the confines of our world! And when one of those threats is the mad Titan Thanos, you can be sure the conflict that follows won't be for the faint-hearted! You can expect to see the events of INFINITY impact all across the Marvel line in the months to come, especially in our own AVENGERS family of titles! And it all starts on 8/14 at your local comic shop or digitally on the Marvel App!



Hey, you AR fanatics! We're so excited about INFINITY this month that we wanted to clue you in to a little Easter Egg we've planted for you to find! Embedded within the pages of the various "Prelude to INFINITY" issues of AVENGERS and NEW AVENGERS (that's AVENGERS #14-17 and NEW AVENGERS #7-8) we've hidden AR activations that will give you the inside scoop on some of what you'll be seeing in the main INFINITY event! To access them, all you need to do is point the Marvel AR App on your digital device at the appropriate page! Which page? Hey, we can't make everything easy for you! But we're confident that genuine dyed-in-the-wool True Believers will be able to hunt them out!

You'd like a feel-good letter to close out on, wouldn't you?

January 6 my husband and I celebrated our eleven year anniversary, and I know that I am blessed to be married to a true super hero. I turned 42 on December 21 and enjoy reading comics. It's actually my first time to read comics ever!

I grew up being taught this stuff was inappropriate and almost evil. I would secretly watch the Hulk on TV and worked at a movie theatre where I had the excuse to try and enjoy entertainment. Comics were for boys anyway. Super heroes were a joke. When my husband and I were married he knew I was uncomfortable with all his comics, so he sold them.

Then on July 4th, 2007 I lay in a hospital room as a doctor walked in and diagnosed me with Leukemia. The next five months the hospital would be my second home and three more months on an experimental chemo with the hope of keeping me alive. I would go at times seven days a week for twenty-four hours a day having chemo pumped into a port in my chest. The times I was able to come home my husband would have to give me shots every day, cook, write the bills, clean, laundry, and he even came down with the flu and still kept going. He also had to go to work and I still always had a homemade sandwich brought to me every day while in the hospital. He was Hulk smashing through it all!!

The next thing we knew we were hiking the Grand Canyon! We just celebrated me being five years Leukemia-free!

The Avengers were about to be released in the theatre and Jason was really pumped for this. There was no way I would let my super hero miss this because of me even though I was not excited. Super heroes were a joke, remember? I decided we could rent Thor so I would at least know another super hero besides Hulk. STOP THE PRESS!!! That moment changed everything! I couldn't believe the amazing story I was seeing.

It didn't stop there because I had us watching Iron Man and Captain America while my husband sat there frozen in disbelief! Then the big day in May came, and I don't think Jason had fully recovered from shock as he sat next to the once super hero hater who now anxiously awaited the start of the movie!

The rest is history and now I am the one telling him which comics are coming out and making sure we don't miss one issue! What a perfect time for a new beginning in Marvel comics! We now are getting Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Avengers Assemble, and Avengers.

We now have comic night and I get to read Thor and Iron Man first but he gets first call on the others. I love the different art in each comic and how so many awesome stories can be told. I think every hospital should be required to have a subscription to Marvel Comics. We need this in the world we live in. Comics and heroes are great and it's okay to like them. When you see a whole bunch of families and friends cheering together in a movie and seeing the fun reading the comics has brought to me and my husband, how could that be wrong?

It could be cancer or whatever obstacle that will enter our lives that may seem too much to handle but I believe we are never given anything we are not able to conquer, so put the hammer down on it or Hulk smash your way through it or whatever superpower you love–just use it and don't give up! Thanks again, Marvel, for keeping the stories going!

Kimberly Kappmeyer
Lady Asgard

NEXT ISSUE:

DAISY JOHNSON:
OUTLAW!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #17 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! TO FACE THE COMING THREAT, THE AVENGERS TAKE ON NEW RECRUITS!

AVENGERS #18 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AVENGERS PETITION THE COUNCIL OF WORLDS!

AVENGERS ARENA #13 ☐
THE AVENGERS ACADEMY SEARCHES FOR ITS MISSING STUDENTS!

AVENGERS ARENA #14 ☐
"BOSS LEVEL," THE FINAL STORY ARC, BEGINS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #18 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN IS ON THE FRONT LINES!

INFINITY #1 ☐
IT'S A WAR ON TWO FRONTS, WITH THE HEROES OF EARTH TORN BETWEEN THEM!

NEW AVENGERS #9 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE CULL OBSIDIAN STRIKES EARTH!

SECRET AVENGERS #8 ☐
MOCKINGBIRD, TRAPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #11 ☐
WILL THE SCARLET WITCH AID IN THE MUTANT RAPTURE?

YOUNG AVENGERS #9 ☐
HEARTBREAK SHATTERS THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

AVENGERS AI #2 ☐
DIMITRIOS RISES—WITHIN THE SENTIENT IRON MAN ARMOR!

A + X #11 ☐
THOR AND MAGIK! CYCLOPS AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #17 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

SECRET AVENGERS

MARVEL

SPENCER
GUICE
WILSON

009

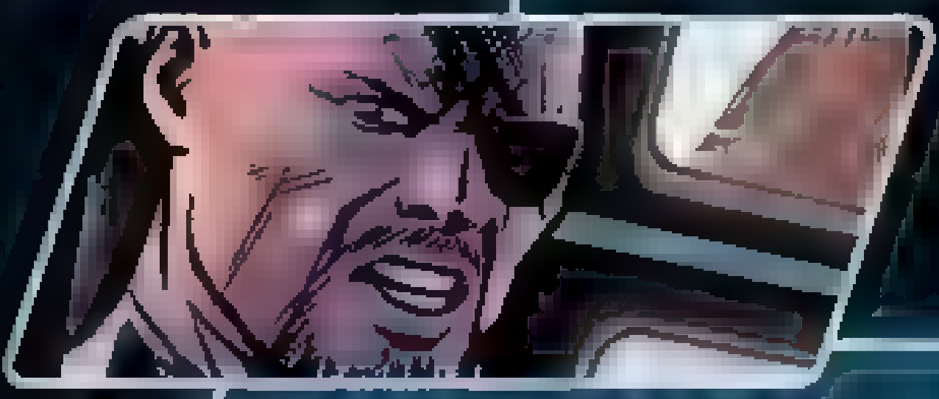
SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

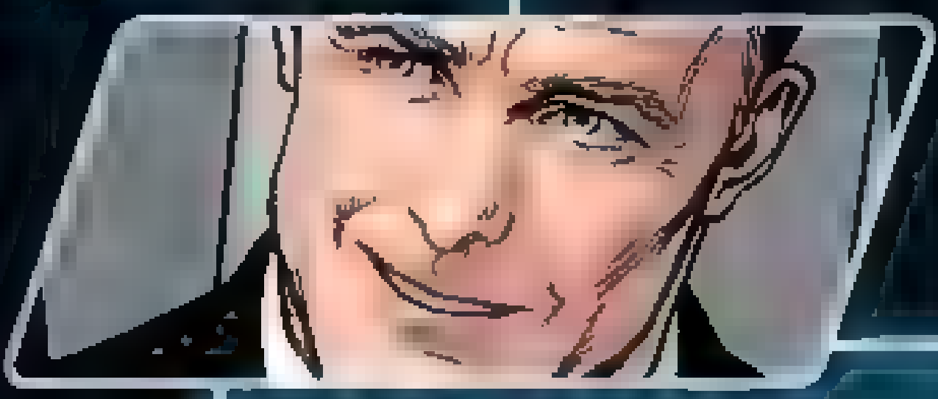
COLLAPSE

DAISY JOHNSON
~~DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.~~ REMOVED FROM OFFICE

MARIA HILL
~~COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR~~
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

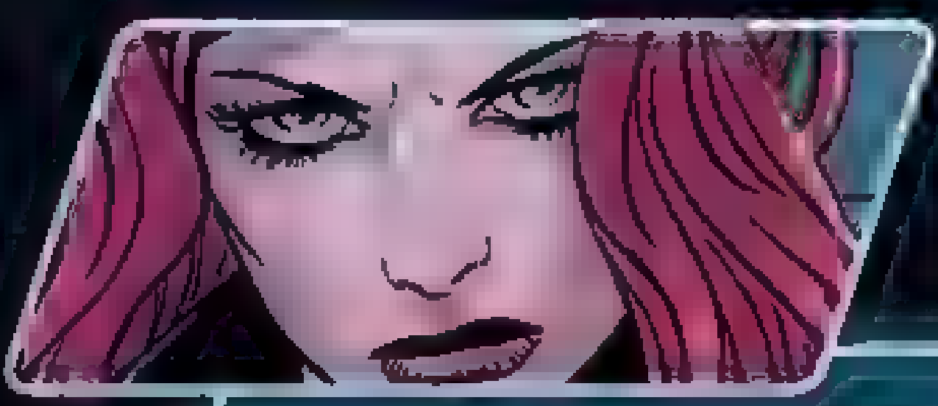


NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT

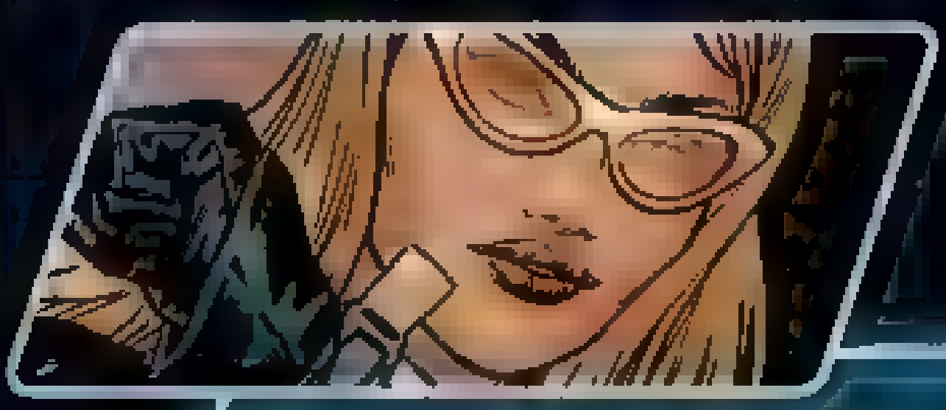


PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT

HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET

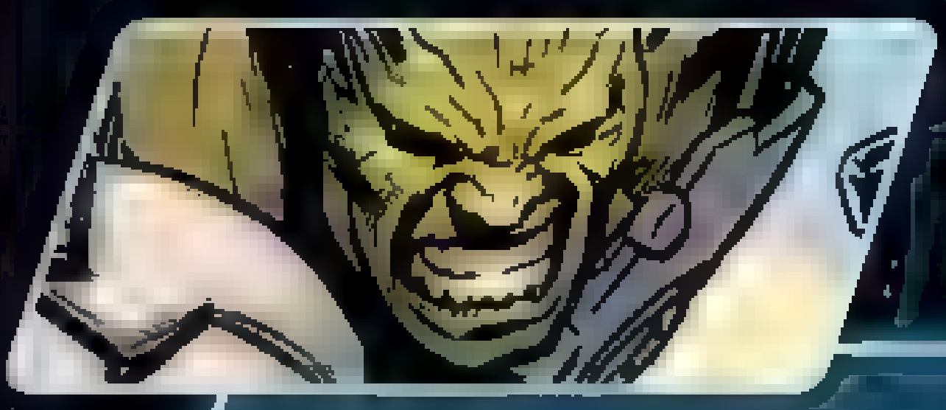


BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET

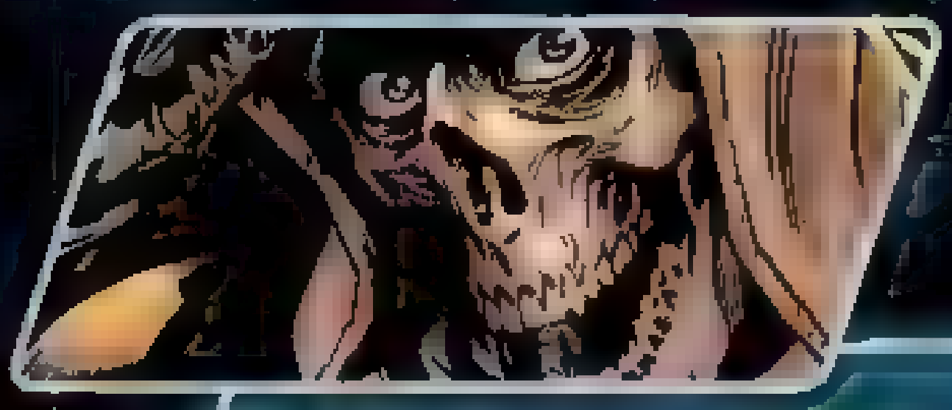


MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
FIELD AGENT/ASSET

IRON PATRIOT
LT. COL. JAMES RHODES
ARMORED TACTICAL/ASSET



HULK
BRUCE BANNER
HEAVY ORDNANCE/ASSET



TASKMASTER
TONY MASTERS
DOUBLE AGENT/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INTERCEPT AND DISARM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. THE SECRET AVENGERS ARE A NEW BLACK-OPS TEAM OF SPECIALLY RECRUITED HEROES TASKED WITH THE MISSIONS S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN. AFTER EACH OPERATION, ALL MISSION INTELLIGENCE IS WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES.

DAISY JOHNSON, AFTER AUTHORIZING AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON A.I.M.'S SCIENTIST SUPREME, WAS REMOVED AS DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. MARIA HILL, CHAFING UNDER DAISY'S LEADERSHIP, FOUND HERSELF AS DIRECTOR ONCE AGAIN. DESPITE HER ACTIONS, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST JOHNSON UNTIL THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL HAS CONVENED. BUT DAISY AND MARIA MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR THAT DECISION...

MISSION 009: LEXINGTON > > >

COLLAPSE

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BUTCH GUICE	ARTIST
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ALAN FINE	EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE

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S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
ONE MONTH AGO.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MINISTER, EVERYONE WANTS A HELICARRIER DEPLOYMENT, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT TO PAY FOR THE--
OF COURSE, SIR, I UNDERSTAND. NEXT TUESDAY. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE SIGHTS IN SAO PAOLO. YES SIR, YOU AS WELL. SAY HELLO TO YOUR WIFE FOR ME, PLEASE.
SIGH
DIALING FOR DOLLARS AGAIN?
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE CHASING DEATH, JUMPING OFF BUILDINGS. SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY. THIS IS NOT MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, MARIA.
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA KEEP THE LIGHTS ON AROUND HERE. WHY DO YOU THINK STEVE ROGERS COULDN'T WAIT TO DITCH THIS JOB?
I CAN'T EVEN GET HALF OF THESE IDIOTS TO RETURN MY CALLS. STUCK IN PLACE UNTIL THE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS--NOT MUCH OF A WELCOME.
DID YOU NOT GET THE CHOCOLATES I LEFT FOR YOU? I PUT THEM RIGHT THERE ON YOUR DESK--
PLEASE JUST TELL ME WE'RE BEING INVADED. INVADED BY SOMETHING COOL.
AFRAID NOT. BUT WE DO NEED TO DISCUSS THIS--
YEAH, I GET THAT...
YOU REALLY DON'T. YOU'VE BEEN DUCKING ME FOR WEEKS--
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT *THE AVENGERS INITIATIVE.*

YOU MEAN WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT *MINDWIPES*.
DAISY, IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA FOR GETTING THESE ASSETS ON BOARD, I'M ALL EARS.
THE SIMPLE REALITY IS, THIS NEW S.H.I.E.L.D. LACKS BOTH THE FUNDING AND THE MANPOWER TO LIVE UP TO ITS MISSION STATEMENT.
EVERY DAY THERE'S SOMETHING NEW. THE THREATS ARE ESCALATING TOO FAST-- AND THE DAYS WHEN WE COULD ROLL UP IN A FLYING CAR AND SHOOT THE BAD GUYS ARE WAY PAST US.
WE NEED TO EXPAND. BECOME A PART OF THE WORLD WE'RE TRYING TO POLICE.
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THIS HASN'T BEEN TRIED BEFORE, HILL. LIKE WE WEREN'T BOTH THERE WHEN LATVERIA CAME BACK ON US AND BROUGHT THE WHOLE DAMN HOUSE DOWN.
YOU CAN DRAW A NICE, CLEAN LINE FROM IT, TAKES YOU STRAIGHT TO NORMAN OSBORN.
THIS WON'T BE THAT.
RIGHT, "THE *TECH IS BETTER*"-- THAT'S NOT MY POINT, AND YOU KNOW IT. IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS--
WHICH WE WILL, BECAUSE WE NEED TO--
THERE HAVE TO BE RULES.

SUCH AS?
CONSENT. EVERY OPERATIVE, EVERY ASSET SIGNS UP FOR THIS KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE GONNA GET. NO EXCEPTIONS.
I'D BE FINE WITH THAT, BUT THERE'S A REASON WE DIDN'T DO IT IN THE PAST--WHAT IF THEY SAY NO?
SUDDENLY WE'VE GOT SOMEONE WALKING AROUND, KNOWING WHAT WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER--YOU THINK THAT KIND OF INFORMATION DOESN'T TRAVEL? KINDA DEFEATS THE WHOLE "SECRET TEAM" CONCEPT.
NOW, THERE IS ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION--BUT IT WOULD MEAN MAKING ONE OF THOSE EXCEPTIONS YOU HATE SO MUCH--
MARIA--
HEAR ME OUT. WE PLANT THE TECH ON THEM BEFORE WE ASK. THAT WAY, NO MATTER HOW THE PITCH GOES, WE'RE COVERED.
WE DELETE THE MEMORY IF THEY SAY NO, BUT THAT'S IT--
WE DON'T GO ANY DEEPER INTO THEIR HEADS THAN THAT. ALL WE'RE DOING IS COVERING OUR OWN TRACKS. IN AND OUT.
I-- I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

BUT I WANT TO START SMALL HERE.
WELL THAT'S ONE GOOD WAY TO DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.
I'M SERIOUS, MARIA. WE CRAWL BEFORE WE WALK. I GAVE YOU YOUR HULK OP, TAKE WHAT YOU CAN GET.
FINE. WE LAUNCH WITH JUST THE OPERATIVES, THEN-- MORSE, BARTON, ROMANOFF--
NATASHA? IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY? SHE'S ONE OF US--
PLEASE. SHE'S TOO USED TO CALLING HER OWN SHOTS. THINKS SHE'S ABOVE ALL THIS THESE DAYS. I'D GIVE MOCKINGBIRD A PASS BEFORE HER, AND THAT'S EVEN WITH THE SKRULL THING.
FINE, FINE--
I'LL NEED A GREEN LIGHT ON A FIELD TEST, SOMETHING SUITABLY HAIRY, MAKE SURE THE IMPLANTS ARE DOING THE JOB--
DONE.
BUT ONCE WE'RE THROUGH THAT--DAISY, I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE EASIEST CONVERSATION TO HAVE, BUT--
THIS TECHNOLOGY, THE SAFEGUARDS IT GIVES US--I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD JUST BE TALKING ABOUT USING IT ON THEM--

"WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT USING IT ON *OURSELVES*."
NOW
HOW DID I EVER GET THAT STUPID?
HAVE'TA IMAGINE I BEAR SOME OF THE BLAME THERE.
EST IN PEAC
ROBERT
RALSTON
PATRIOT
WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D SHOW. MISSED YOU AT THE STATE FUNERAL.
NOT THE KIND OF PLACE I'M WELCOME THESE DAYS. YOU KNOW THE PROBLEM WITH RIDING OFF INTO SUNSETS--
YOU CAN NEVER QUITE REACH THEM.
NICE TO SEE YA AGAIN, DAISY--
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AND @#$%.

THIS IS MY FAULT, NICK. RALSTON--HE'S DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.
I--I LET A.I.M. WALK IN THE DOOR AND THEY GOT ME TO LOSE IT--AND NOW--
NOW, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
REB GOT HIMSELF KILLED 'CAUSE HE TOOK A BITE AT SOMETHING THAT COULD TAKE A BIGGER BITE OUTTA HIM.
AND KNOWIN' THE MAN LIKE I DID, I CAN TELL YA HE WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY. SO NO NEED TO BEAT ON YOURSELF 'BOUT THAT. TROUBLE IS--
YOU GAVE HER JUST THE OPENING SHE NEEDED.
HILL...
TOLD YOU THAT WAS A BAD IDEA.
NOT MANY OPTIONS THE U.N. WOULD STOMACH FOR ACTING DIRECTOR UNTIL I GOT THROUGH CONFIRMATION. WE NEEDED HER CONTACTS, HER EXPERIENCE--
AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT YA. PAINS ME TO SAY IT, BUT MARIA'S A DAMN GOOD SOLDIER.
TROUBLE IS, SHE ONLY KNOWS ONE PLACE TO STAND IN THE MARCHING LINE--OUT IN FRONT.
ROBER
RALSTON
PATRIOT

YOU EVER THINK SHE'S DOIN' YOU A FAVOR?
SORRY?
YOU'RE NINETEEN YEARS OLD, DAISY. YOU ALREADY FOUGHT ENOUGH, BLED ENOUGH--YOU DON'T OWE THIS WORLD A DAMN THING.
YOU COULD WALK AWAY, KNOWIN' YOU WERE THERE WHEN THEY NEEDED YOU, KNOWIN' YOU DID YOUR BIT. IT'D BE ON THEM.
YOU TRYING TO GET ME TO DECK YOU, OLD MAN?
HEH. THAT'S MY GIRL. WELL, THAT BEIN' THE CASE--
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE PLAY I'D MAKE.

FUNTIME, INC.
FORMER DIVISION OF STARK INDUSTRIES.
TWELVE HOURS LATER.
BRAP
TINK
TINK
SCRAMBLEBOMB ACTIVATED.

THANKS AGAIN FOR THE LIFT, EDEN.
IT'S AN EASY THING FOR ME TO DO, DAISY. BESIDES, I FIGURE THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT TO ME BEING AN AVENGER UNLESS I BETRAY THEIR TRUST AT LEAST ONCE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS. AND DID I SAY CONGRATULATIONS? ON THE AVENGERS THING?
YOU DID NOT. YOU WENT STRAIGHT TO ASKING ME IF I KNEW WHERE TONY STARK'S SECRET LAB WAS--
AND IF I COULD TAKE YOU THERE.
RIGHT. GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T ASK QUESTIONS.
OLD LOYALTY BOUGHT YOU THE TIME AND DISTANCE, SURE. BUT NOW--
OF COURSE--
WE'RE HERE FOR THIS.

BACK WHEN NORMAN OSBORN WAS HUNTING HIM, TONY STARK MADE A KIND OF COPY OF HIS BRAIN, FOR SAFEKEEPING. TOO MANY SECRETS TO BE CAPTURED WITH AND ALL.
AND NOW YOU NEED THE SAME?
EDEN, I-- I'M OUT AT S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AT ANY TIME, THEY HAVE THE MEANS TO TAKE MY MEMORIES--MY SECRETS--AWAY FROM ME. FROM ANYWHERE. THIS IS THE BEST I COULD COME UP WITH.
WHY WOULD YOU AGREE TO SUCH A THING?
BECAUSE IT WASN'T SAFE--WE NEEDED A CHECK FOR IF ONE OF US TURNED TRAITOR OR GOT CAPTURED. BECAUSE I ASKED OTHER PEOPLE TO DO THE SAME.
BECAUSE I SCREWED UP.
YOU UNDERSTAND MY COLLECTION IS VINYL?
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. I JUST NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS WHILE I'M UNDER--
TEK-
MAKE SURE I DON'T...DIE OR ANYTHING.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
HEY!
I'M SORRY, DIRECTOR--MY--MY NAME IS AGENT DANIEL--
FRICKS. DANIEL FRICKS, EVERYONE CALLS YOU DANNY. PSI-DIVISION, MONITORING BRANCH, RIGHT?
THAT--THAT'S RIGHT, MA'AM. I'M SORRY TO BARGE IN LIKE THIS--
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, DANNY?
YOU--YOU PROBABLY NEED TO SEE THIS YOURSELF.
WHEN DID IT START?
JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO--AS YOU KNOW, THE MEMORY IMPLANTS HAVE CERTAIN BUILT-IN SECURITY MEASURES, ALARMS TRIGGERED BY TAMPERING OR SURVEILLANCE...
NOW WHEN HERS ACTIVATED, PSI-DIVISION IMMEDIATELY TOOK A LOOK, AND WE WERE ABLE TO ASSESS HER LOCATION, AND WHO SHE WAS WITH AT THE TIME--
AND?
SHE'S IN ONE OF STARK'S LABS, MA'AM.

"OKAY, PEOPLE! LISTEN UP--WE ARE ON A CLOCK HERE--"
I WANT BLANK SLATE JOBS ON ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING ABOVE CLEARANCE LEVEL FOUR--
//UPLOAD IN PROGRESS// TWENTY-ONE PERCENT COMPLETED
MA'AM. EXCUSE ME, BUT--I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T CLEARED TO ISOLATE THE DIRECTOR-- NOT UNTIL THE SECURITY COUNCIL GAVE US AUTHORIZATION--
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, AGENT NANCE. H.R. WILL SEND YOU INSTRUCTIONS ON YOUR NEW STATION BEFORE TOMORROW MORNING.

ANYONE ELSE HATE THEIR JOB? NO?
THEN LET'S MOVE. EVERY SECOND WE WASTE, WE BLEED INFORMATION. I WANT THE FLOOR SWEPT CLEAN, YOU GOT IT?
//UPLOAD IN PROGRESS// FORTY-NINE PERCENT COMPLETED
EXECUTE
DELETE
//UPLOAD FAILURE/// SIXTY-TWO PERCENT COMPLETED
UM, DAISY?

SIX HOURS LATER.
SO YOU DO REMEMBER SOME THINGS, AT LEAST.
YEAH. I MEAN--I REMEMBER S.H.I.E.L.D.--I REMEMBER BEING DIRECTOR--AND I REMEMBER MARIA GETTING TO ME--BUT--I DON'T REMEMBER THE HOW'S AND THE WHERE'S AND THE WHY'S...
LOAD FAILURE//
Y-TWO PERCEN
COMPLETED
IT'S WEIRD--JUST THESE BIG CHUNKS, GONE. MEETINGS, CONVERSATIONS, THINGS I'VE READ--I CAN SEE THE START OF THEM AND THEN THEY JUST--SLIP AWAY... PEOPLE MISSING FROM ROOMS...
DIDN'T EVEN WORK.
YOU HAVE THE SIXTY-TWO PERCENT, DON'T YOU? THAT'S SOMETHING.
I DON'T KNOW THAT IT IS.

IT'S LIKE ANY FILE--A PARTIAL DOWNLOAD ISN'T BITS IN SEQUENCE.
I STICK THIS BACK IN MY HEAD-- I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, BUT IT SURE AS HELL WOULDN'T BE ME REMEMBERING TWO-THIRDS OF EVERYTHING--
BEST CASE, I'D GET FLASHES, INSTINCTS, HINTS.
AND THE WORST CASE?
MY BRAIN REJECTS THE WHOLE THING. BRAIN DAMAGE, I GO NUTS, I CAN'T DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MEMORY AND PRESENT. ALL OF THE ABOVE.
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO, THEN?
OH, PUT IT BACK IN. DEFINITELY.

ONE WEEK LATER.
YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE FROM ME, DIRECTOR HILL?
NO, YOU'RE RELIEVED, MASON. GO HOME, GET SOME REST.
THANK YOU, MA'AM.
Kotzky's confections
CUTE, JOHNSON.

KIEV.
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW--

BEEN TAILING ME SINCE ODESSA, FIGURE YOU MUST BE TIRED OF IT BY NOW.
I'M NOT WITH THEM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT.
OH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE--
DIRECTOR JOHNSON.
NOT DIRECTOR ANYMORE, ACTUALLY. BUT I DO HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU. SOMETHING I KNOW YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN.
YEAH? WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE IT INVOLVES SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT, BARNES.
HM. WELL, GO ON, THEN--

I'M LISTENING.
BUCKY BARNES IS THE
WINTER SOLDIER

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

With the Avengers off in deep space dealing with the cosmic threat of the Builders in **INFINITY**, who can defend the Earth from Thanos in their absence? That's the question that Luke Cage is going to have to answer in **MIGHTY AVENGERS #1**, coming your way this month from writer Al Ewing (whose AGE OF ULTRON issues of **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** made such a big impact) and stellar artist Greg Land! Responding to the Hero for Hire's call will be an assemblage of Avengers new and old, including the Superior Spider-Man, the White Tiger, Spectrum (everybody's favorite Monica Rambeau), Power Man, She-Hulk, the Blue Marvel and the breakout character of the year, the mysterious Spider Hero! (Interested parties may also want to turn an eye towards **SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP #3** and **4** as well, where our ad hoc group puts in some additional face time during INFINITY!) Some people have been asking whether the Marvel Universe needs another Avengers title, but you'll see the method to our madness once MIGHTY AVENGERS #1 reaches a store near you!

INFINITY
MARVEL
MIGHTY
AVENGERS
DIGITAL EDITION
EWING
LAND
LEISTEN
ARMATA
001

LETTER OF THE MONTH:

Dear Marvel,
I'm late to the party – I just now read ALL-NEW X-MEN #13 and its reference to UNCANNY AVENGERS #5. I've seen a lot of people in the last few weeks talk about having "a conversation on race" and it appears that you're doing that right here, in the pages of super hero comics. All without sacrificing entertainment value. And that's fantastic. Your conversation is about a science-fictional surrogate for race, of course – but hey, it's art. Things stand in for other things. What fascinates me here is that you have two different viewpoints (I suspect Kitty and Alex are standing in for their respective writers, but I may be wrong) who do not completely agree, but they are able to coexist and debate respectfully, all believably within the bounds of the Marvel U. And while they may disagree, one is not the "good guy" and the other "evil." They're both good guys (and gals), both on the same side, even though they don't think in lockstep. Makes me wonder if it could happen in reality.

Very rarely does a discussion in comics require me to internally debate which side I come down on. I really enjoy Brian Bendis' work, and I had the same crush on Kitty Pryde that just about every X-Men fanboy who was young in the 80s had. But I find myself leaning towards Alex's argument.

Why? I've long felt that the Marvel mutants engage in too much self-segregation. It always seemed like a logical disconnect that Xavier thought that mutants would be more accepted by the general population if you gather them all in a place where there's only mutants, have them dress in ways that make them instantly stand out, and send them off to engage in public violence before disappearing without accounting for themselves to the authorities that oversee everyone else. In large part, of course, they do that because that's what super heroes tend to do. But as a strategy to avoid mistrust and suspicion between two groups, it seems poorly considered.

So, Alex's point in his "don't call me a mutant" speech was that "mutant" doesn't define anyone's character, any more than "non-mutant" defines everyone else. I think the focus in ALL-NEW X-MEN on whether "mutant" was a bad word was missing the point – to me, the point was that dividing up people into non-mutant and mutant is categorizing them far too broadly to begin with. There are infinite varieties of people, with or without any particular genetic quirk. Dividing them up into groups is the beginning of the slippery slope – next you start making assumptions about them based on these broad groupings, and that way lies madness. I understood Alex to be saying that calling him a mutant is objectionable because it defines him solely on that basis, diminishing and overlooking everything about him that truly makes him who he is.

Kitty, on the other hand, said that she wants it known that she is a mutant because she knows that there are bigots out there who might "have a problem" with her, and she wants to flag them as such before she emotionally invests in them – like she did with the boy she had a crush on, before he revealed his true character with an anti-semitic remark. But this stance, while it seems practical, also seems pessimistic and a little disappointing coming from Kitty Pryde. Emotionally, I totally understand her position. But racism and bigotry are often complex things. I realize this is a comic book, but few real people are 100% prejudiced or 100% free of prejudice all of the time. The pure, raging bigot and the all-loving saint are vanishingly rare. How, then, do you decide at what point you are going to write people off? Is it the mission of the X-Men to identify bigots in order to have nothing further to do with them – or to continue to do their best for everyone even in the face of prejudice, in order to serve as an example to redeem those capable of redemption? Kitty's stance feels too unforgiving to me. Heroes are supposed to inspire the best in people, not judge them and discard them the first time they falter. Some people are beyond redemption – we've all probably had the misfortune to encounter at least one – but how do you know until you try?

Of course, when you have a machine that can tell you with a beep if someone's a mutant or not, categorizing them that way may be irresistible. But, for that matter, I never liked the existence of "mutant detecting" technology either. It seems to objectify and authenticate the prejudices our heroes are struggling to eliminate. Nature doesn't draw clear, bright lines like that. I often thought that if I had the chance to write an X-Men story, I would reveal that everyone would set off a "mutant detector" if it was adjusted to be sensitive enough – in other words, that being a "mutant" was a matter of degree instead of a bright-line distinction. We are all at least a little bit mutant because we are all part of a species that changes and evolves over generations. Just as with any other trait, the final expression has to do with the interaction of thousands of other traits – not just one. It's never that simple.

And that sums up why I lean toward Alex's position, I suppose – he accepts complexity, while Kitty seems (to me) to be oversimplifying.

Thanks for the great read, in both ALL-NEW X-MEN and UNCANNY AVENGERS. And Make Mine Marvel.

Michael C. Lea

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #19 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AVENGERS, PRISONERS OF WAR!

AVENGERS #20 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! TOTAL, UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER! IT'S NOT OUR HEROES' BEST DAY...

AVENGERS A.I. #3 ☐
EXPERIENCE THE DIAMOND, THE SURREAL NEW WORLD OF THE A.I.! WILL THE VISION SAVE IT OR DESTROY IT?

AVENGERS ARENA #15 ☐
NARA VS ANACHRONISM VS BLOODSTONE! SOMEONE'S HEART IS GETTING BROKEN!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #19 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN AND THE BLACK WIDOW TO THE RESCUE!

INFINITY #2 ☐
THE BLACK ORDER OF THANOS DEMANDS TRIBUTE FOR ITS MASTER!

INFINITY #3 ☐
THE FALL OF ATTILAN! THE FATE OF BLACK BOLT!

NEW AVENGERS #10 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE BATTLE FOR EARTH CONTINUES. WHAT AN AWFUL TIME FOR AN INCURSION!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #1 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! WITH THE AVENGERS IN SPACE, WHO WILL STAND FOR EARTH?

SECRET AVENGERS #9 ☐
QUAKE VS MARIA HILL FOR CONTROL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #12 ☐
THE DARK ORIGINS OF THE APOCALYPSE TWINS AS KANG'S MOTIVES STAND REVEALED!

YOUNG AVENGERS #10 ☐
IT'S MOTHER'S DAY! AND THE YOUNG AVENGERS FORGOT TO SEND A CARD!

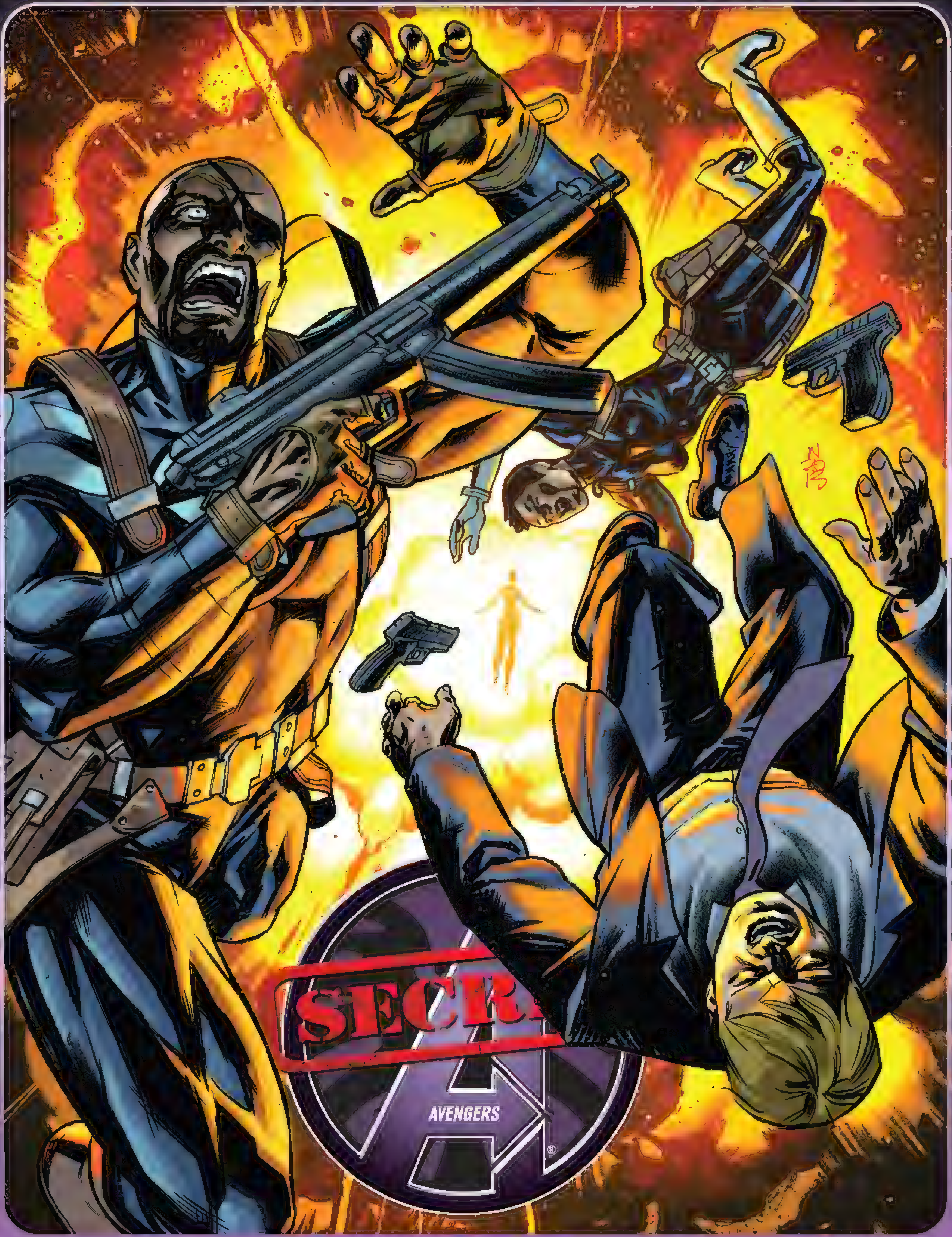
A + X #12 ☐
THE BEAST AND WONDER MAN! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND JUBILEE!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #17 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

INFINITY


SECR
AVENGERS

MARVEL

BRISSON
ROSS
WILSON

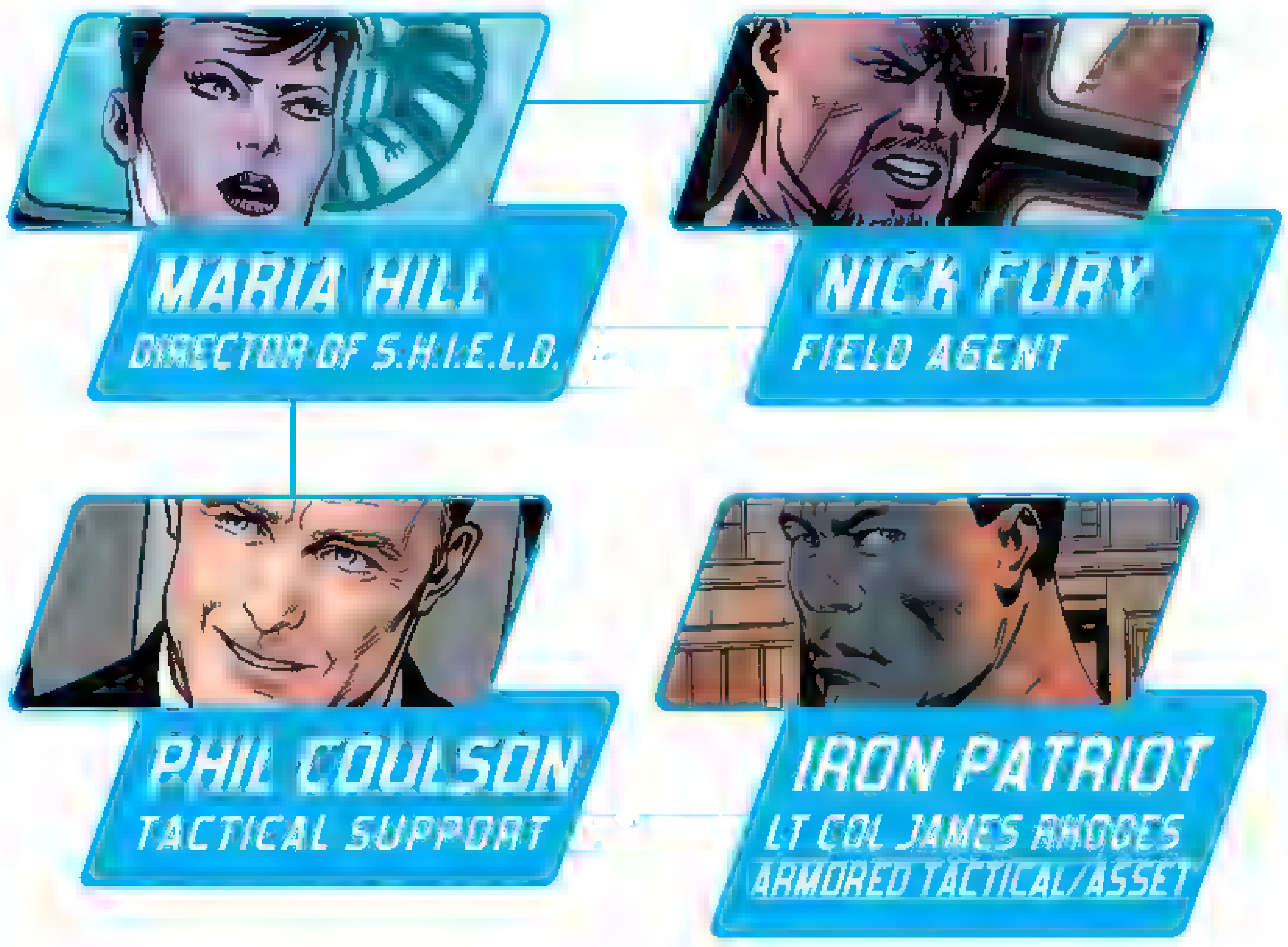
010

SECRET AVENGERS

MISSION NOTES > > >

S.H.I.E.L.D. IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INTERCEPT AND DISARM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. THE SECRET AVENGERS ARE A NEW BLACK-OPS TEAM OF SPECIALLY RECRUITED HEROES TASKED TO DEAL WITH THE MISSIONS S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN. AFTER EACH OPERATION, ALL MISSION INTELLIGENCE IS WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES.

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >



ATTN AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. -- URGENT:

Earth is under attack by the being known as Thanos. We have received confirmation that the Avengers are off-planet after receiving a priority alert from space. Please be advised that Thanos' army is currently attempting to occupy all major cities and it is up to you to hold them off. We have also received reports about a large chemical weapon being detonated above New York by the alien group known as the Inhumans. According to reports, exposure to these chemicals (SEE: "Terrigen Mist") can have varied xenobiological consequences (SEE: Terrigenesis/Cocoon). PLEASE PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

MISSION 010: BROOKLYN > > >

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FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

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PARK SLOPE.
BROOKLYN. 5:12 AM.

SKRUTCH
:GASP!:
THUD
WHAT THE HELL JUST...?
IS THAT A...
...COCOON?
GROSS.
WHAT IS GOING ON?
WHAT...
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY...WHY AM I WHITE? LIKE *LIVING DEAD* WHITE?
...THE CRAP?
GUUH!

URGH...
WHAT--
IS--

BOOOOOOOOOOM

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.* ABOVE LONG ISLAND SOUND.
DIRECTOR HILL!
AT APPROXIMATELY 05:15 TODAY, WE RECEIVED REPORTS OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER ALIEN ATTACK IN PARK SLOPE.
AN APARTMENT COMPLEX WAS DESTROYED. MIRACULOUSLY, NO ONE WAS KILLED-- MOST OF THE RESIDENTS HAD ALREADY VACATED.
I'VE GOT MORE ATTACKS AROUND NEW YORK THAN THERE ARE STARBUCKS. UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS ATTACK, AGENT--
THAT'S THE THING...
THIS WASN'T AN ATTACK. AND IT COULD POTENTIALLY BE AN ASSET TO S.H.I.E.L.D.
THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY ONE OF OUR OWN.
THIS SUCKS.
THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T COME TO SEE YOU UNLESS YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.
BIG TROUBLE.
SARAH GARZA.
SO NOT COOL.
ALIENS TEAR UP MY NEIGHBORHOOD, I TURN ALL ZOMBIE WHITE, *AND* I BLOW UP MY BEAUTIFUL RENT CONTROLLED APARTMENT. AND NOW...

I'M...WHAT? GOING TO JAIL? GETTING FIRED?
SHE'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. COMPUTER TECH. APPARENTLY THIS MORNING SHE HATCHED FROM A COCOON, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN HER LATENT ABILITIES CAME ONLINE AND CAUSED HER TO SORT OF... SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST.
Sarah Garza
A COCOON?
YES, MA'AM.
GROSS.
YES, MA'AM. IT IS.
OH, GOD. WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT ME? THEY'RE GOING TO SEND ME TO THE CUBE. I KNOW IT!
ALL TESTS FOR THE X-GENE HAVE COME BACK NEGATIVE. WE'RE RUNNING FURTHER TESTS, BUT IT'S A PRETTY SAFE BET THAT THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE RELEASE OF TERRIGEN MIST IN THE WAKE OF ATTILAN'S DESTRUCTION.
AN INHUMAN?
THAT'S OUR BEST GUESS AT THE MOMENT.
I DON'T RECOGNIZE HER.
WELL, HER SKIN USED TO BE LESS... WHITE-ISH.
AND YOU THINK THAT WE CAN CONTROL IT?
MA'AM?
HER SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTIONING... STUFF? CAN SHE CONTROL IT?
AT PRESENT, NO. BUT WE'RE WORKING TO DEVELOP TECH TO--
CALL LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES RHODES. GIVE HIM THE DETAILS. I BET STARK HAS THE TECH YOU NEED SITTING AROUND COLLECTING DUST IN A CLOSET.
SHE'S NOT GOING TO BLOW UP ON ME IF I GO IN THERE, IS SHE? I'M KIND OF PARTIAL TO LIFE.
NO, MA'AM. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, IT SHOULD BE SAFE.
"AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL." GREAT.
HERE IT COMES.
COLONEL RHODES, PLEASE.

I'M SO FIRED. THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE ME PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGE AND I WON'T HAVE A JOB AND BECAUSE I WON'T HAVE A JOB I WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY FOR THE--
SARAH, I'M DIRECTOR MARIA HILL.
I CAN EXPLAIN THE PROPERTY DAMA--
I'M NOT EVEN DONE PAYING OFF MY STUDENT LOANS!
PROPERTY DAMAGE IS THE LEAST OF OUR CONCERNS. YOU SHOULD SEE QUEENS.
I'M GOING TO CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE.
NORMALLY, AT THIS POINT, I WOULD SIT HERE AND GIVE YOU A PEP TALK. BUT TIME IS SHORT, SO YOU GET THE BULLET POINT VERSION.
THANOS'S ALIEN INVADER WRECKING CREW IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.
I KNEW IT!
WE'RE PRETTY SURE THAT WE CAN HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR NEW POWERS.
OKAY...?
AND WE NEED YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD, FIGHTING AGAINST THIS INVASION.
WAIT... WHAT?!
I SIT BEHIND A COMPUTER. PUNCH BUTTONS. I DON'T DO BATTLES.
I'M A TECH! A CODER, NOT A FIGHTER!
NOW, NORMALLY WE'D GIVE YOU ABOUT SIX MONTHS OF TRAINING WITH THE AVENGERS BEFORE SENDING YOU OFF INTO THE FRAY LIKE THIS. BUT, WITH THE AVENGERS OFF-PLANET AND THANOS HITTING US GLOBALLY, WE NEED TO FAST-TRACK THINGS A BIT.
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A NEW SUIT AND THIRTY MINUTES TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT.

BROOKLYN.
FURY. COULSON. HOW'S IT LOOKING ON THE GROUND?
MESSY. AND BLOODY. WE COULD REALLY USE SOME BACKUP.
WE NEED SOME SERIOUS FIREPOWER. PREFERABLY MANY SOMEONES WITH SERIOUS FIREPOWER.
SENDING IN IRON PATRIOT WITH A NEW RECRUIT. SHE'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. TECH WHO WE'VE MOVED UP THE RANKS.
RHODEY?! THAT'S THE SORT OF FIREPOWER WE CAN DEFINITELY USE HERE.
EXPECT THEM IN ABOUT TEN.
FIVE WOULD BE BETTER.

WARNING
HEARING PROTECTION REQUIRED IN THIS AREA
BEWARE OF JET BLA
PROPELLERS AND ROT
WARNING
NOISE AREA
MAY CAUSE HEARING LOSS
USE PROPER
EAR PROTECTION
WE'RE MOVING AS FAST AS WE CAN.
I NEED YOU BOTH TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS GIRL. SHE'S GOT A LOT OF FIREPOWER, BUT ZILCH IN THE EXPERIENCE DEPARTMENT. I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THROWING HER INTO BATTLE SO QUICKLY, BUT DESPERATE TIMES...
COPY THAT.
MA'AM...
I THINK YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.
OH, GOD. I HOPE I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE.
MA'AM.
WHAT?!
THANK YOU FOR THIS, SARAH. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET RIGHT NOW.
I'M LEAVING YOU TO RHODES AS I APPARENTLY HAVE TO GO DEAL WITH A FIFTY FOOT TALL NAKED MAN.*
YES, MA'AM.
I'M TOTALLY GOING TO DIE OUT THERE.
*SEE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #20 FOR FURTHER INTEL. -S.H.I.E.L.D. ARCHIVES

THIS IS CRAZY...
I'M NOT GOING TO LIE. I'M HAPPIER DEALING WITH A HORDE OF ALIENS THAN A FIFTY-FOOT STREAKER.
ONE DAY, I'M JUST A LOWLY COMPUTER TECH, THE NEXT I'M BEING OUTFITTED BY IRON PATRIOT...
...OR IS IT WAR MACHINE? I CAN'T REMEMBER.
THERE ARE RECEPTORS INSIDE THE SUIT THAT WILL REPURPOSE THE ENERGY YOUR BODY'S EXUDING. YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY YOUR OWN POWER SOURCE.
CONGRATS ON HAVING A ZERO CARBON FOOTPRINT.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DIRECT THAT ENERGY THROUGH YOUR CHEST OR THROUGH THE CANNONS ON EACH HAND. OR BOTH.
ALL THOSE STARS AND STRIPES... I GUESS IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.
LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND ROBOCOP'S LOVE CHILD.
HOW DO I WORK IT?
THE SUIT MAY LOOK INTIMIDATING, BUT IT'S ALL PRETTY INTUITIVE. JUST POINT AND SHOOT. LIKE A CAMERA. A VERY, VERY POWERFUL CAMERA THAT KILLS THINGS.
DOES IT... YOU KNOW... FLY?
PLEASE SAY NO. PLEASE SAY NO.
I DISABLED FLIGHT CAPABILITIES. THAT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN LEARN IN THE TEN MINUTES OR SO WE HAVE TOGETHER.
WHEW.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE GOING TO DO GREAT.
ARE THOSE...?
IT'S OKAY.
THEY'RE WITH ME.

OH, CRAP. OH, CRAP. OH, CRAP.
THIS IS REAL. THIS IS REALLY *REAL.* UGLY ALIENS AND GUNS AND LOUD NOISES AND--
SARAH, YOU GOTTA MOVE! IF YOU JUST STAND THERE, YOU'RE AN EASY--
BOOM
OKAY. GET IT TOGETHER. YOU ALMOST DIED. AGAIN.
YOU'RE SARAH?
YES, SIR.
DO NOT STARE AT HIS EYE PATCH. DO NOT STARE AT HIS EYE PATCH...
ALRIGHT, SARAH. I NEED YOU TO PULL IT TOGETHER. WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK, OKAY?
YES, SIR.
I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO BE THROWN RIGHT INTO.
THIS'LL BE JUST LIKE ANY FIELD TRAINING YOU'VE ALREADY HAD. OKAY? ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT NOW YOU'RE WIELDING SOME SERIOUS STARK TECH. NO BIG. JUST TAKE OUT THE BADDIES.
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE, NOW IS WHEN WE NEED TO SEE THEM.
YEAH...

HE'S RIGHT. LET'S DO THIS! LET'S ROAST SOME ALIEN A--
CLICK
HUH?
CLICK
THE HELL...?
RHODEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ISN'T HER SUIT--
WHOA!
OKAY. I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
TOTAL AVENGERS MATERIAL, RIGHT HERE!
CALL ME THE FIRE QUEEN! NO...LAME.
THE SCORCHER!
PROBABLY TAKEN.
INCINERATOR!
NO. BARF.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
WATCH THAT AIM! WE ONLY HAVE SO MANY OF THESE DRONES.

SORRY!
DON'T GET COCKY, SARAH.
SARAH, PUSH THEM BACK.
RHODEY, GET YOUR DRONES TO FLANK. LET'S CORRAL THESE CREEPS.
"EVERYONE ELSE--GIVE THEM EVERYTHING YOU GOT!"
THIS IS NOTHING. LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL.
UGLY, UGLY ALIEN FISH HELL-BENT ON DESTROYING EARTH, BUT STILL.

WELL, THAT WAS CERTAINLY EFFECTIVE.
THANKS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE BLAST WOULD BE THAT... BIG.
HOLY CRAP. I DID IT! AVENGERS MANSION, HERE I COME!
GOOD WORK.
THANK YOU.
DO NOT STARE AT THE EYE PATCH. DO NOT STARE--
GAH! I TOTALLY STARED AT HIS EYE PATCH.
IRON PATRIOT. SWEEP THE AREA. MAKE SURE WE'RE CLEAR.
ROGER. GIVE ME ABOUT TWO MINUTES.
YOU HEARD THE MAN. LET'S SWEEP!
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.
SWEEPING INITIALIZED.

MARIA. IRON PATRIOT--ALL OF THEM--ARE DOING A FINAL SWEEP, BUT IT APPEARS THE AREA IS CLEAR.
AND SARAH?
SHE DID GOOD. DEFINITELY GOT A LOT OF FIREPOWER, BUT SHE'S GREEN. NEEDS SOME GUIDANCE--AND A SUIT THAT WASN'T COBBLED TOGETHER IN FIVE MINUTES--BUT COULD DEFINITELY BE AN ASSET.
YOU DID PRETTY GREAT OUT THERE.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR SUPER HERO NAME YET?
I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT. JUST HAPPY TO HELP.
YOU NEED ONE. SOMETHING BADASS.
THE INVIGILATOR.
LIKE THE PERSON WHO WATCHES YOU TAKE YOUR EXAM?
YEAH. EXACTLY! *THE INVIGILATOR:* ENFORCING THE RULES!
UGH. NOT TAKING NAME ADVICE FROM A GUY WHO GOES BY "CHEESE."
WE'RE ALL CLEAR. ALL ALIENS ARE EITHER DEAD OR--
DE--SRHZK--SOMETHING--THKK--

RHODEY!
RHODEY! RHODEY! WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T... KNOW.
...EVERYTHING WENT...HAYWIRE. THE SUIT...JUST... IT...SHUT DOWN.
STAY STILL. GIVE US A SECOND TO--
SIR.
GUYS.
UM...
...I THINK WE NEED TO MOVE.

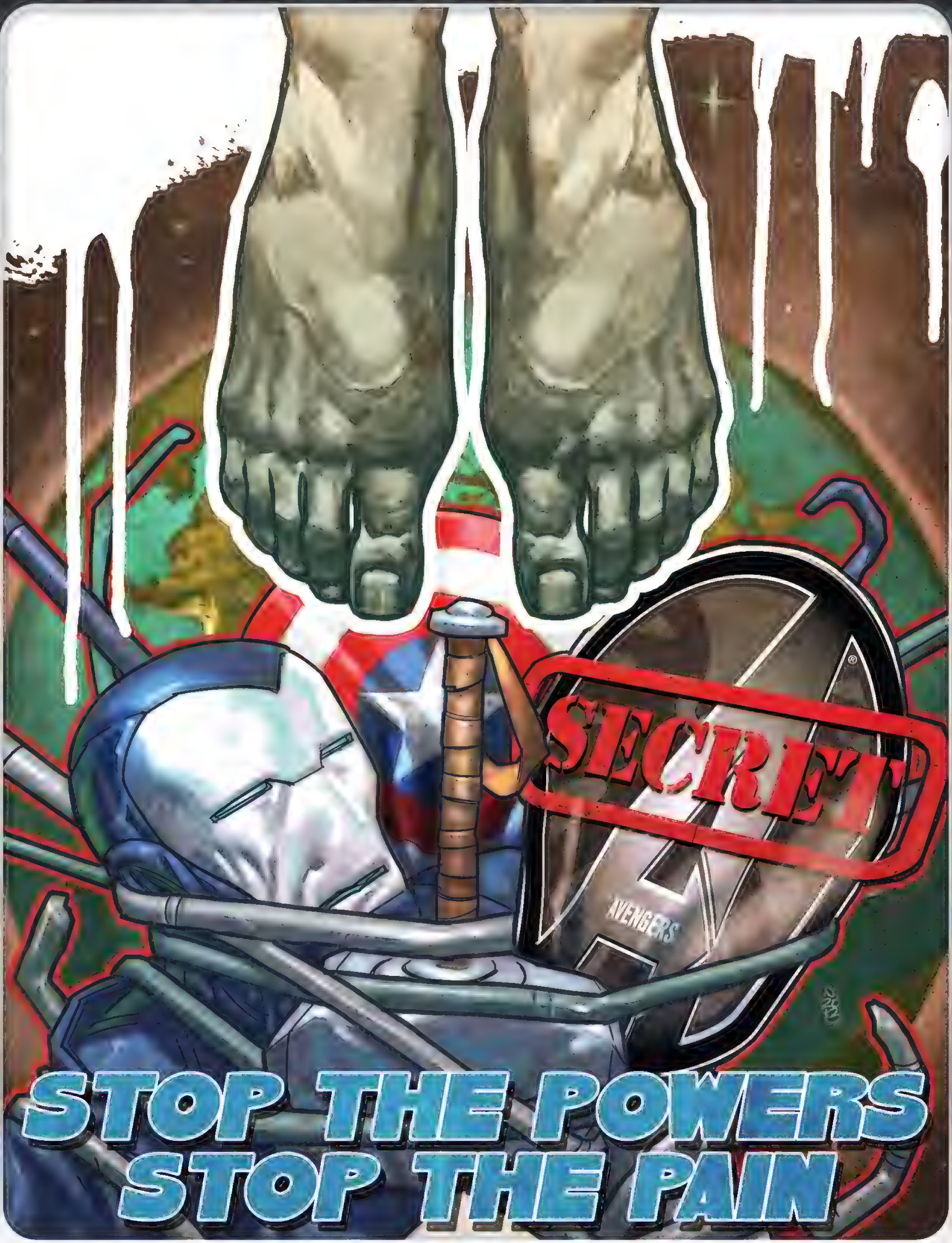
OH, COME ON!
WE JUST SAVED THE DAY!
EVERYONE...
YOU'D THINK THAT WE'D GET AT LEAST A FIVE MINUTE BREATHER.
...GRAB SOME COVER!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! THIS SUCKS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE AN AVENGER. THEY CAN KEEP THEIR STUPID MANSION.
CRASH
I JUST WANT MY COMPUTER BACK. JUST ME AND MY NAVIGATION CODES AND--
OH, CRAP. OH, CRAP. OH, CRAP.

PLEASE LET THIS WORK.
SHABOOM
THAT'S RIGHT!
SHA! BOOM!
WAH?
WHAT THE HELL IS--

--GOING ON?
UGH.
IT'S COMING UP OUT OF THE GROUND.
DON'T STRUGGLE, YOU'LL ONLY MAKE THE BINDS TIGHTER! TRY TO CUT THROUGH IF YOU CAN.
F-- SHRKKS-- OLSON-- TCHKR--*
SOMEONE GET ME A SIGNAL!
NOW!
MA'AM. IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THEIR DEVICES HAVE SHORTED OUT.
FURY! COULSON! WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE?
"WE CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THEM."
SERIOUSLY, NOT EVEN A THIRTY-SECOND BREAK.
THIS IS ALL
YOUR
FAULT.

YOU!
YOU DID THIS
TO OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
OUR HOMES.
OKAY...
AND FOR THIS
YOU
SHALL
PAY!
...THIS DEFINITELY SUCKS.
TO BE CONTINUED...

INFINITY


SECRET
AVENGERS
STOP THE POWERS
STOP THE PAIN

BRISSON
ROSS
WILSON

011

MARVEL

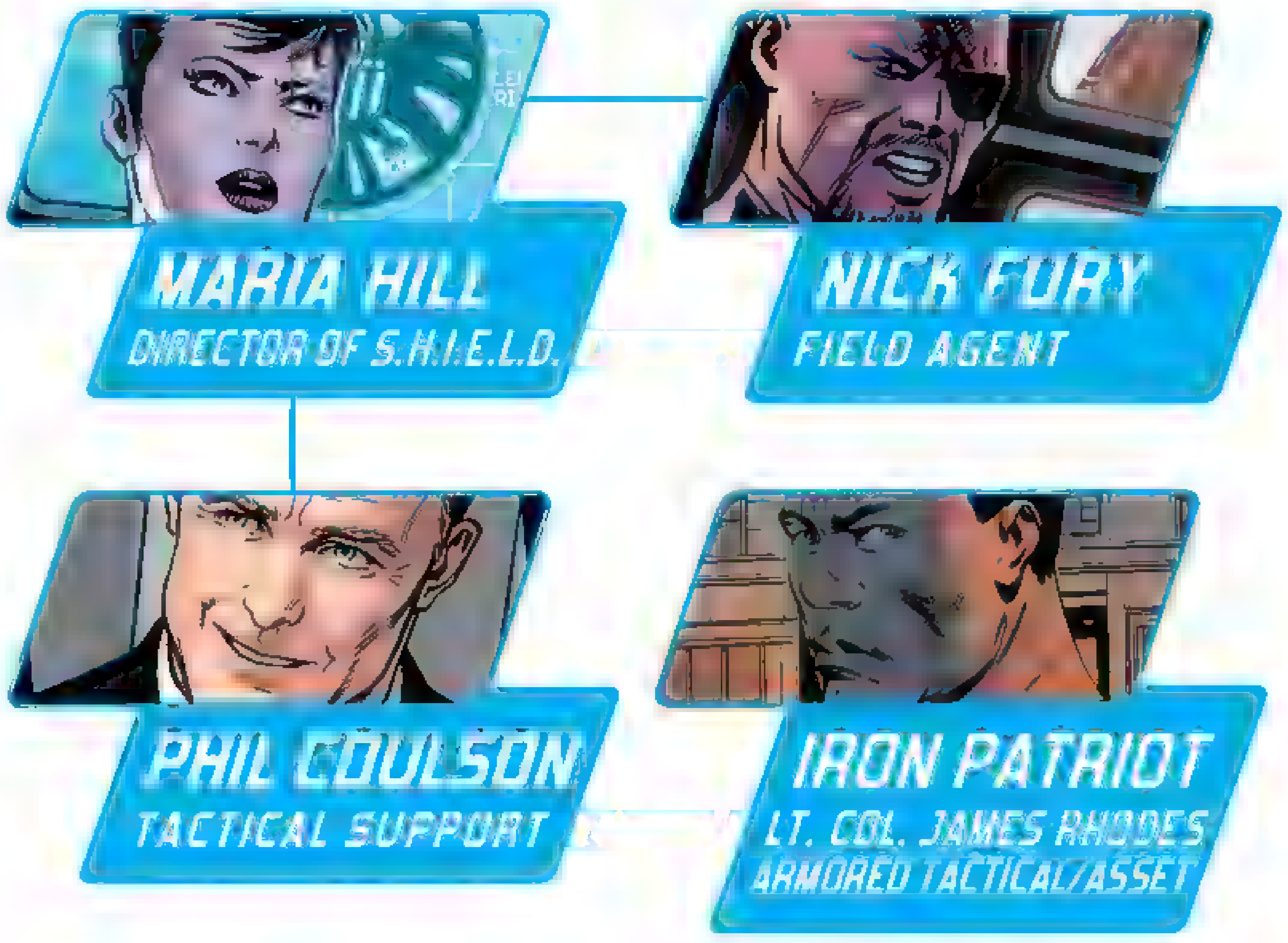
SECRET AVENGERS

MISSION NOTES > > >

ATTN AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. -- URGENT:

WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF A CHEMICAL WEAPON BEING DETONATED OVER NEW YORK BY THE ALIEN GROUP KNOWN AS THE INHUMANS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS EXPOSURE TO THESE CHEMICALS (SEE: "TERRIGEN MIST") CAN HAVE VARIED XENOBIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES. POSSIBLE INHUMAN ACTIVITY IN BROOKLYN. BE ADVISED.

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >


MARIA HILL
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT
PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT
IRON PATRIOT
LT. COL. JAMES RHODES
ARMORED TACTICAL/ASSET

MARIA HILL (DIRECTOR), FIELD REPORT 27J-8.7: [illegible]

MISSION 011: BROOKLYN, pt. 2 > > >

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FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

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S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD*.
ABOVE THE LONG ISLAND SOUND.
HERE'S THE DEAL:
WHAT THE *HELL* JUST HAPPENED?!
THIS MORNING I WOKE UP IN A COCOON...
(IT WAS GROSS)
...FOUND OUT I WAS AN INHUMAN...
GET ME A SIGNAL! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, STAT! SOMEONE TELL ME *WHO* THAT WAS!
DISPATCH A TEAM TO ASSIST. *NOW.*
ALL AGENT COMMS ARE DOWN, DIRECTOR HILL. ALL SECURITY, CCTV AND TRAFFIC CAMERAS HAVE GONE OFFLINE. WE DON'T HAVE ANY WAY--
...AND GOT RECRUITED TO FIGHT AN ALIEN INVASION.
FIND A WAY!
ALL BEFORE NOON.
I MAY HAVE SOMETHING.

YESTERDAY, I WAS JUST LIKE THESE PEOPLE...
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A DOOR THROUGH ONE OF THE IRON PATRIOT DRONES.
A S.H.I.E.L.D. TECH.
IF I CAN HACK IN, WE CAN USE THEM AS OUR EYES ON THE GROUND.
HACK? IS THIS 1998?
JUST GET ME IN THERE.
AT PEACE BEHIND A COMPUTER. FIGHTING FROM A DISTANCE. MY BIGGEST FEAR: GETTING CAUGHT CHECKING TWITTER.
OPTIC CENTER
ANNNND...
...WE'RE IN.
OH, CRAP.
BUT NOW...

NOW I'M IN IT.
WE...ZFST... NOT...AS...ZFFT... YOUR HELP... SKRT...
CAN YOU BOOST THE SIGNAL?
ON THE BATTLEFIELD...
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL OF THE OTHER DRONES ARE TOO BADLY DAMAGED. THIS IS THE ONLY CONNECTION I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH.
KEEP TRYING, AGENT.
...FIGHTING TO SAVE THE HUMANS OF NEW YORK.
WHAT'S THE E.T.A. ON THE SUPPORT TEAM?
THEY'RE THREE MINUTES OUT, DIRECTOR.
WELL...

...NOT FIGHTING, PER SE.
WHRR
BROOKLYN.
WE NEVER ASKED FOR YOUR HELP.
WE NEVER WANTED FOR YOU TO SAVE US.
ALL YOUR BATTLES THEY ARE ALL YOUR OWN.
YET IT IS US WHO ARE ALWAYS THE VICTIMS.
MORE LIKE "GETTING THOROUGHLY DEFEATED BY SOME DUDE IN A HOSPITAL GOWN WHO WON'T GET OUT OF THE FRIGGIN' UPDRAFT."
AT THIS POINT, I WISH IT WAS MY LIFE THAT WAS FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES.
IF I MAKE IT OUT OF HERE, I'M HANGING UP MY HIGH-TECH TIGHTS FOR GOOD.
LEAVE THE FIGHTING OF LEVITATING, CRAZY, BARE-BUTTED VILLIANS TO THOSE WHO LIKE THAT SORT OF THING.
SIR, YOU NEED TO LISTEN.

WE ARE HERE ONLY TO DEFEND--
WE ARE SICK
OF YOUR
LIES!
YOU TELL US YOU ARE OUR
PROTECTORS
BUT EVERY TIME THERE IS A
THREAT
IT IS
YOU
THAT THEY COME FOR.
NOT US.

GIVE ME A STATUS UPDATE.
WE'RE APPROACHING THE SCENE. SHOULD HAVE EYES ON IT IN A FEW MOMENTS.
ONCE WE TOUCH DOWN, WE'LL RADIO IN WITH--
HANG ON. WE ARE...WE ARE LOSING--
AGENT?!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WE LOST THEIR SIGNAL.
I CAN SEE THAT. WHY?!
WORKING ON IT, MA'AM.
BOOM
HE JUST...

YOUR TECHNOLOGY.
YOUR WEAPONS.
WILL NOT SAVE YOU.
LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
IF OTHERS TRY TO
COME
THEY WILL ALSO BE
HOW DO WE STOP HIM?
DESTROYED
...KILLED THOSE AGENTS.
FOR YOU
WE
WE
HOW DO WE GET OUT OF--
UNNNNGH...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

WHAT...?
DON'T QUESTION, AGENT. JUST MOVE.
FALL BACK!
YES, SIR. MORE THAN HAPPY TO GET MY ASS OUTTA HERE AND AWAY FROM CAPTAIN NO-PANTS.
KR-KRACK
KEEP MOVING! LET'S PUT SOME WALLS BETWEEN US AND THIS CREEP!
--ZZST--ICK, CAN Y;KRCHT;-- HEAR ME?
DIRECTOR HILL?

AGENT FURY. YOUR COMMS HAVE BEEN OUT. WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
WE WERE AMBUSHED BY SOME SORT OF TELEKINETIC. LOOKS LIKE THE STRAIN OF USING HIS POWERS CAUSED HIM SOME SORT OF TRAUMA. NOT SURE HOW LONG HE'LL BE OUT.
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING HAS SHUT DOWN THE INTERFERENCE WE WERE DEALING WITH.
WE'VE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO GET A VISUAL ON YOUR ASSAILANT.
GAVREL ACHTER. HE'S A CITY SANITATION WORKER. NO MAJOR PRIORS-- NO *ANY* PRIORS. THIS GUY'S CLEAN. NO INDICATION THAT HE SHOULD HAVE POWERS.
HE WAS CHECKED INTO BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER YESTERDAY AFTER AWAKING FROM A COCOON-- WHICH MEANS THAT WE'VE GOT ANOTHER INHUMAN ON OUR HANDS.
THE TERRIGEN MIST SEEMS TO BE WAKING THEM LIKE CRAZY.
GAVREL
HE MAY BE CONFUSED AND ACTING OUT OF FEAR. IF POSSIBLE, BRING HIM IN ALIVE.
BUT IF HE LEAVES YOU NO CHOICE, TAKE HIM OUT.

ALL RIGHT. S.H.I.E.L.D. TELLS US THAT THIS GUY, GAVREL, IS LIKELY AN INHUMAN, LIKE AGENT GARZA HERE.
I'LL DRAW HIM DOWN TO THE END OF THE COMPLEX, TRY TO TALK TO HIM. IF THERE'S A CHANCE THAT WE CAN BRING HIM IN WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DAMAGE, I WANT TO TAKE IT.
CHEESE, I'M GOING TO DIVERT HIS ATTENTION, WHICH SHOULD GIVE YOU AN OPENING FOR A CLEAN, EASY SHOT.
INHUMAN?
HOW MANY OF US ARE THERE?
IF HE EVEN LOOKS AT ME SIDEWAYS, I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT.
RHODEY, GARZA, YOU HAVE COULSON'S BACK. BE READY TO RUN IF THIS DOESN'T WORK.
OKAY, FOLKS, LET'S DO AS THE MAN SAYS. WITH ANY LUCK, THIS'LL BE OVER SOON AND WE'LL BE BACK TO FIGHTING BORING OLD ALIENS BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

WHERE?
WHERE DID YOU
COWARDS
GO?
FURY, YOU'RE STAR>KTZZT<G TO >SHHKRTSX<
GAVREL! WE KNOW ABOUT THE COCOON. ABOUT THE HOSPITAL.
WE CAN HELP YOU. WE HAVE SCIENTISTS WHO CAN--
YOU DON'T
GET IT.
THAT
IS YOUR
PROBLEM.
YOU
THINK
THAT THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR
HELP.
C'MON, NICK. C'MON.

WE'VE LOST THE COMMS AGAIN.
WHERE'S MY VISUAL?
WE'VE LOST THE SIGNAL.
HOW?
THE IRON PATRIOT DRONE MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROY--
FIND *ANOTHER* WAY IN.
I'M TRYING.
TRY *HARDER.*
I'M DOING MY BEST, MA'AM.
JUST... JUST KEEP TRYING.

IF YOU'LL JUST LISTEN TO--
NO!
NO MORE TALK!
GRAAAAAAAAH!
THAT'S IT.
SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T WANT TO PLAY NICE.
RATATATATAT

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
NO!
A CAR?! A FREAKING CAR?!
SARAH!
THIS IS HOW I GO OUT? HIT BY A CAR ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF A BROOKLYN APARTMENT!
CHEESE, WE GOTTA MOVE. THE FLOOR CAN'T HOLD ALL THIS WEIGHT.
RMMMMMM
CHEESE!
RRRUMMMMMBLE

OKAY. WHOA. I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE ANGRY OR AMAZED.
I MEAN, I JUST DISINTEGRATED THAT CAR...
BUT THIS DUDE NEARLY KILLED ME.
OR TRIED TO, AT LEAST.
HE'S SOOOO DEAD.
AND I'M SICK OF YOUR CRAZY MAN RAMBLING!
SICK
OF YOUR
DISEASE!
THIS IS TO SHUT YOU UP AS MUCH AS IT IS FOR TRYING TO KILL ME!
DIE!
YOU
CANNOT
HOPE...
CAN'T
THWUMP

THIS IS MY HOME TOO.
I NEVER ASKED FOR YOU TO PROTECT US.
WE NEVER ASKED FOR YOUR LUNATIC ANTICS.
AND BECAUSE I THINK IT BEARS REPEATING...
NO... PLEASE...
...YOU NEARLY KILLED ME!
PLEASE...
I--I CAN'T DO THIS. I'M NOT A KILLER.
I'M NOT LIKE HIM.
I'M NOT A--
BLAM

NOOOO!
WHO...?! WHO DID THIS?!
I COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE THAT HE'D REGAIN HIS FACULTIES AND LAUNCH ANOTHER ATTACK.
I'M SURE THAT YOU COULD HAVE HANDLED IT, SARAH. YOU SURPRISED US ALL OUT THERE TODAY.
BUT WE COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
I GET IT. I KNOW.
PLEASE. I JUST NEED A MINUTE.

HE...HE JUST KILLED HIM LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.
NO EMOTION. NO ANGER. NO... NO ANYTHING.
I HAD REASON. I HAD THE ANGER.
STILL, I COULDN'T.
I'M NOT LIKE THEM.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
LATER.
CONSIDERING YOU HAD NO TRAINING, I'D SAY THAT YOU DID GREAT OUT THERE, AGENT GARZA.
I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND YOU TO A PROGRAM, SO THAT YOU CAN GET A BETTER--
NO.
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
I GET THAT I HAVE THESE POWERS AND NEED TO LEARN TO CONTROL THEM.
BUT I DON'T WANT THIS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A WEAPON.
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL--
NO ONE WANTS TO KILL. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO. WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT--
BY KILLING.
SOMETIMES. BUT IT SHOULD NEVER BE EASY.
WHEN IT WAS THOSE...THINGS. THOSE ALIENS. OKAY. I GET THAT. IT WAS EASY.
NOT *EASY.*
JUST...NOT HUMAN.
BUT GAVREL. THAT COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN ME AND--

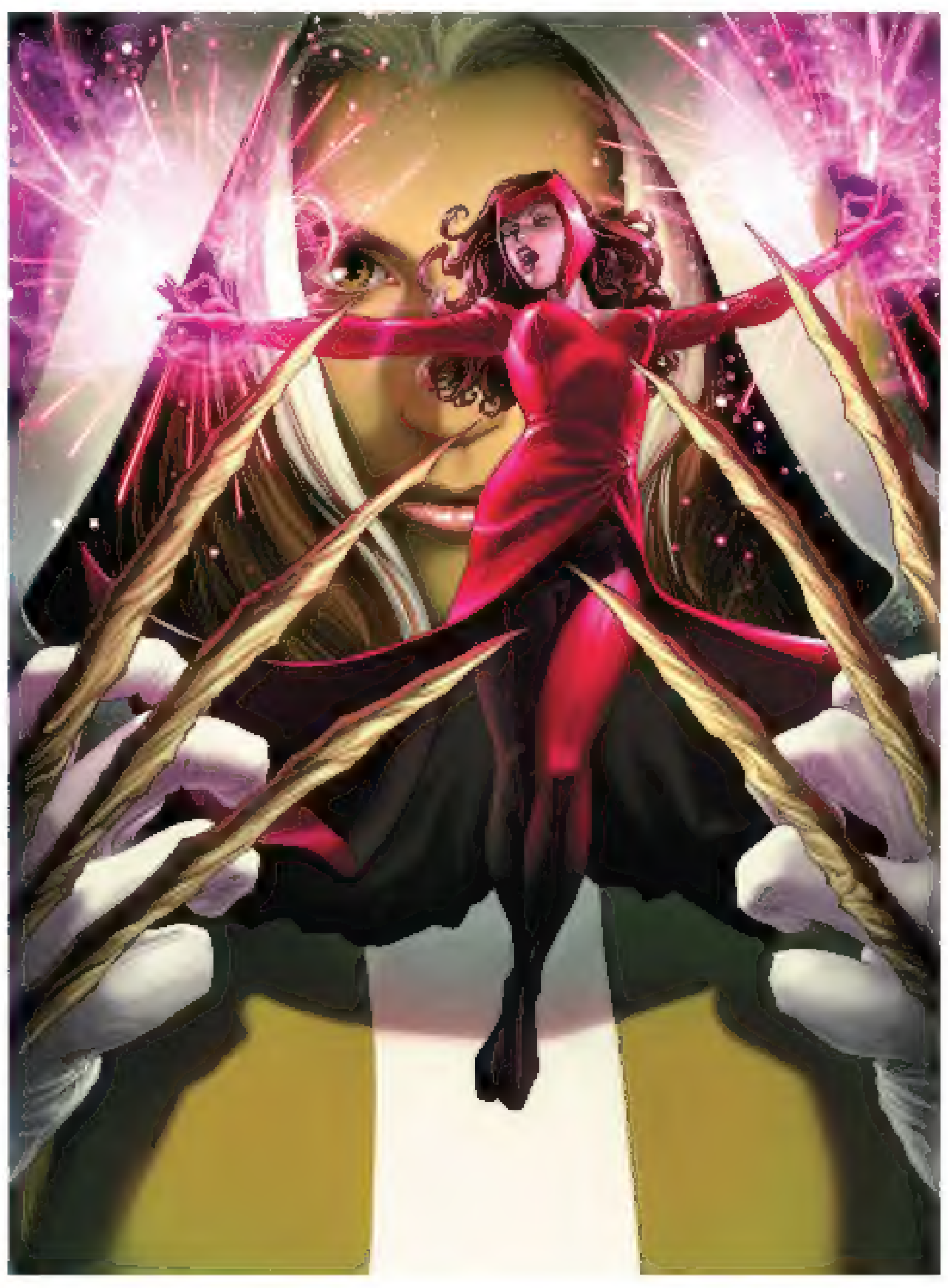
YOU CAN'T THINK OF THE *"WHAT IFS."* IF WE HADN'T STOPPED GAVREL, OTHERS WOULD HAVE DIED. HUNDREDS. MAYBE MORE.
I KNOW THAT. I KNOW THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IT'S JUST...IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE MAKING THOSE DECISIONS.
LISTEN. I KNOW...I'M NOT STUPID...I KNOW THAT I CAN'T HAVE MY OLD LIFE BACK. THAT'S NOT MY REALITY ANYMORE.
BUT *THIS.* I DON'T WANT *THIS* TO BE MY REALITY EITHER.
YOU CAN TOSS ME INTO PRISON FOR ALL I CARE. BUT I AM NOT SETTING FOOT ONTO ANOTHER BATTLEFIELD.
ALL RIGHT. WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO PUSH YOU INTO BATTLE. WE'LL GET YOU HELP TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS AND GET YOU SETTLED BACK INTO TECH OPS--IF YOU WANT IT.
BUT UNTIL WE HAVE SOMETHING IN PLACE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE CONFINED TO THIS CELL--AS OUR GUEST, OF COURSE.
BUT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND--
I WON'T.
UGH.
THIS SUCKS.
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T THINK I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT TOSSING ME IN PRISON.
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH.
I *REALLY* DON'T WANT TO GO TO PRISON.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

Coulson Lives! And you can find him on ABC Tuesday nights at 8:00 as the linchpin of **MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.**! Unless you've been living on a desert island these past few weeks, you've already heard about how the premiere broke records in terms of its audience! And that's only the tip of the iceberg—you'll be amazed by the surprises the series has in store for future episodes (which is why smarter true believers tune in live)! If you're getting the impression that we're kinda excited by all this, give yourself a gold star—it's one more step toward Marvel's domination of the entire globe! Don't Yield, Back S.H.I.E.L.D.!

Just when you thought things couldn't get worse for the **UNCANNY AVENGERS**, it's time to begin "RAGNAROK NOW!," the second movement of our big Apocalypse Twins saga! And joining writer Rick Remender in torturing both mutant and non-mutant Avenger alike is artist Steve McNiven (whom you may remember from such almost-forgotten stories as "Old Man Logan," "Brand New Day" and CIVIL WAR)! Starting things off with a bang in this month's issue #14, you won't believe the shocking twists and turns—not to mention which characters don't make it to the end of the issue in one piece! We've maxed out the crazy factor here, so don't be caught off-guard! Absolutely no one will be seated without $3.99!



Well, the votes have been tallied, and we're ready to share the results of our recent Favorite Avengers poll. Ever since we posted the mid-term rankings a while back, there's been a swell of activity— specifically, the members of the "Carol Corps" of CAPTAIN MARVEL fans got the vote out to support their faves!

So here's the tale of the tape:

FAVORITE AVENGERS SERIES –
In a surprise upset, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE took it by a wide margin. NEW AVENGERS was the runner-up!

FAVORITE AVENGERS WRITER –
– Kelly Sue DeConnick, with Jonathan Hickman as the number two.

FAVORITE AVENGERS PENCILER –
Stefano Caselli, with the second spot split between John Cassaday, Steve Epting, Dustin Weaver and Jamie McKelvie

FAVORITE AVENGERS INKER –
Rick Magyar

FAVORITE AVENGERS COLORIST –
Jordie Bellaire

FAVORITE AVENGERS LETTERER –
A three-way draw between Cory Petit, Joe Caramagna and Clayton Cowles, all of Virtual Calligraphy

We're not sure what this tells us (other than not to mess with those CAPTAIN MARVEL fans), but congratulations to all of the winners!

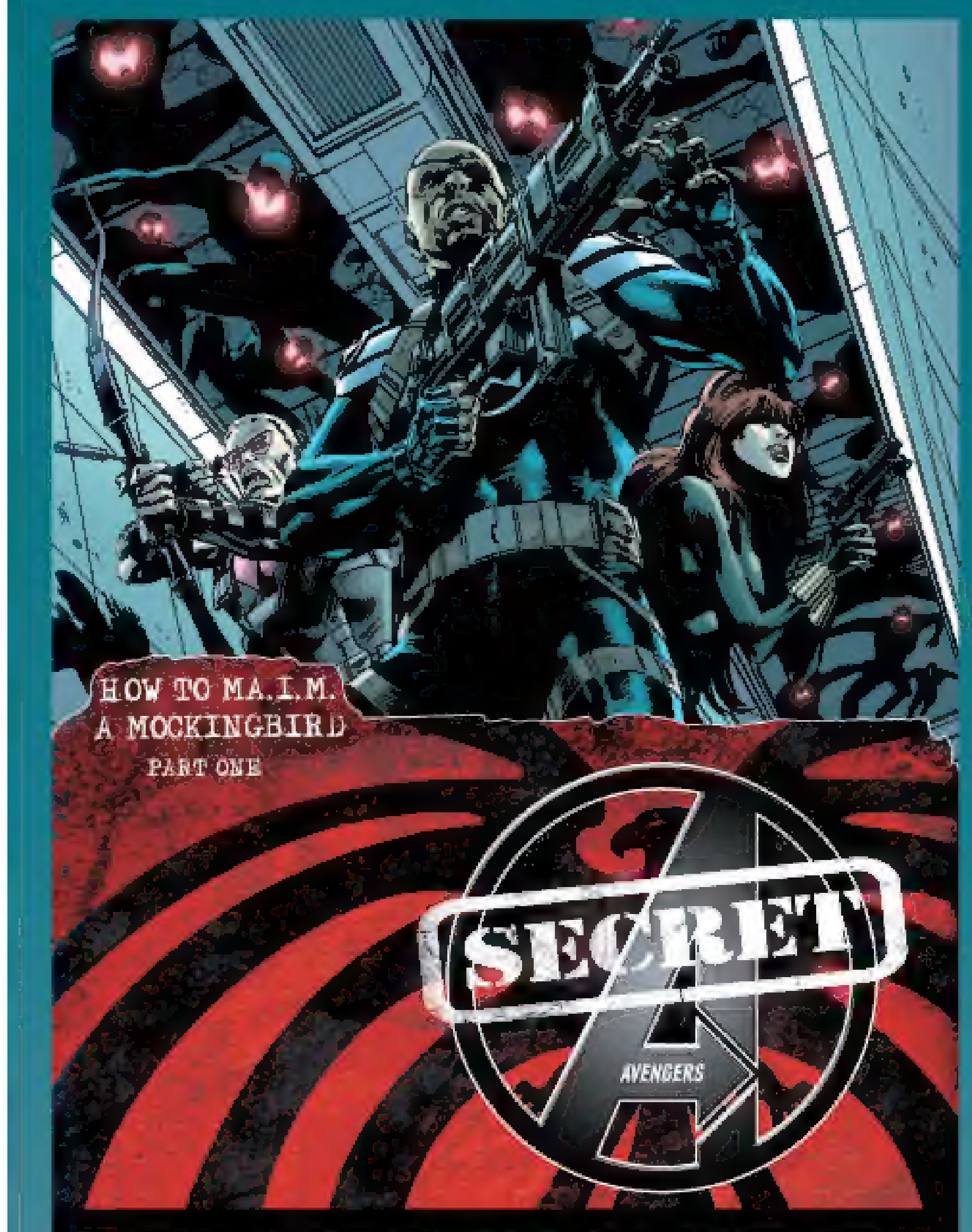
And what would this page be without a Letter of the Month?

Hello there, my name is Chris Countryman. I'm a 31yr old medically retired Army Veteran. Growing up, if I wasn't outside playing basketball or football I was inside reading my Marvel comics all the time. While other kids joined gangs over street names and colors I was all about my Marvel heroes! When we were attacked on 09\11, I joined the Army to go and fight for this country I love. It was very hard to get comics during my 1st tour, but on my 2nd tour in Iraq I was better prepared. Well, 8 months in I was hit by a roadside bomb that smashed our armored pretty bad. Thankfully my crew came away with just bumps and bruises but I unfortunately received a traumatic brain injury. I'm not telling my story for sympathy because I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat. My point is that there's a chance I'm recovering a lot better and keeping my brain cells a lot more active because I'm constantly using and stimulating those brain cells. So on behalf of my family I'd like to say thank you all for all the great work.

Chris Countryman

And thank you for your service, Chris!

NEXT ISSUE:



THEY ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT...MOSTLY

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #23 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE BATTLE FOR EARTH MOVES PLANETSIDE!

AVENGERS A.I. #6 ☐
THE MAN BEHIND THE IRON (MAN) MASK REVEALED!

AVENGERS ARENA #17 ☐
BOSS LEVEL! IT'S AN ALL-OUT BATTLE ROYALE (TO COIN A PHRASE)!

AVENGERS ARENA #18 ☐
SERIES FINALE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #21 ☐
AS INFINITY LEADS TO INHUMANITY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SPIDER-GIRL?

INFINITY #6 ☐
THE MEGA-SIZED CONCLUSION AS THE AVENGERS BATTLE THANOS FOR THE EARTH!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #3 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE RETURN OF ADAM, THE BLUE MARVEL!

NEW AVENGERS #12 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR IS FELT!

SECRET AVENGERS #11 ☐
INFINITY TIE-IN! ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE FOR EARTH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #14 ☐
RAGNAROK NOW! STEVE MCNIVEN! WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?

YOUNG AVENGERS #12 ☐
THE YOUNG AVENGERS VS. THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

A + X #14 ☐
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS CONTINUE THEIR QUEST, AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN BONDS WITH MAGNETO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #2 ☐

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